BOOM! BOX™

C.S. PACAT JOHANNA THE MAD JOANA LAFUENTE

FENCE™

EIGHT

FENCE™

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BOOM! BOX™

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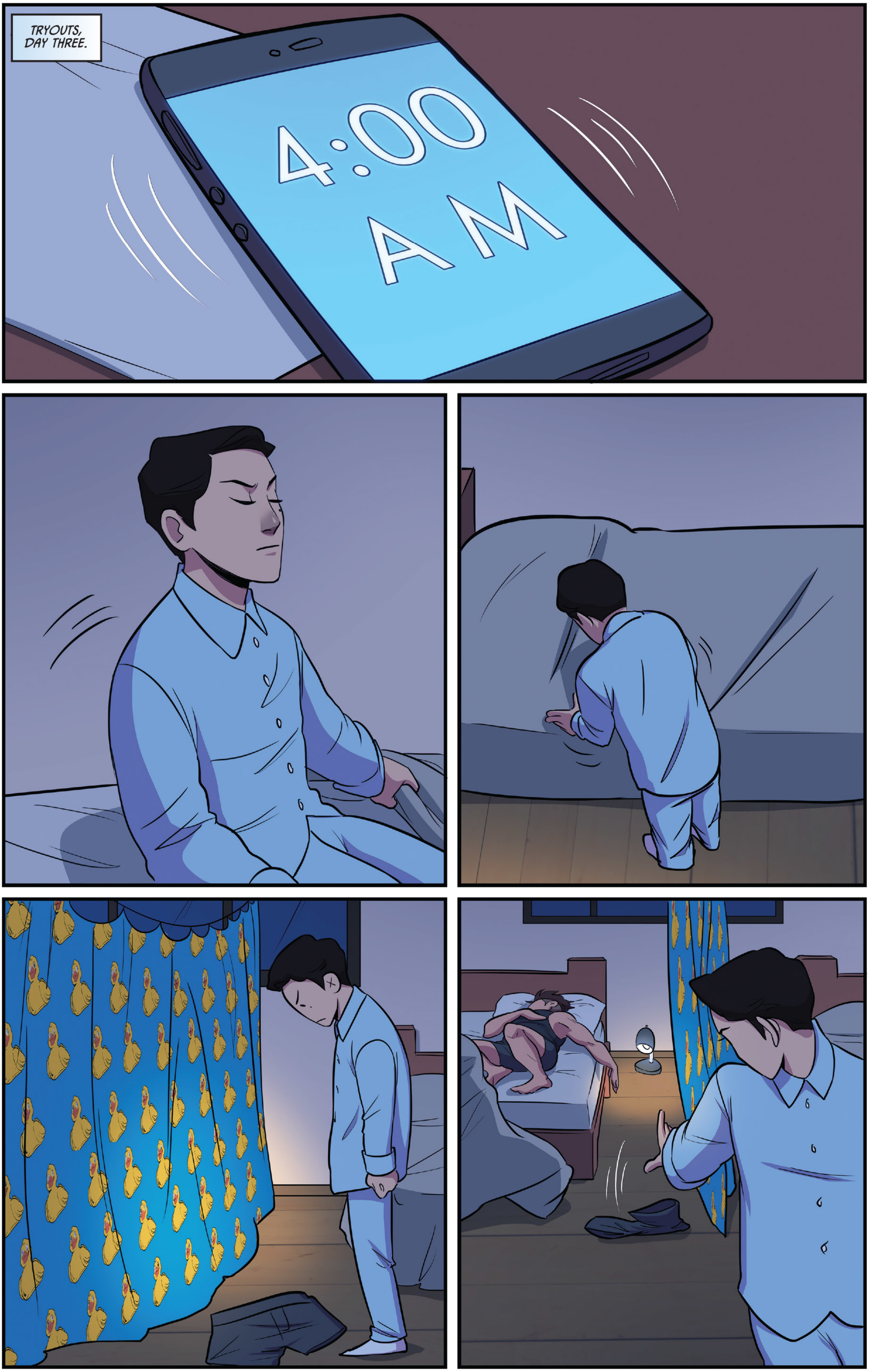
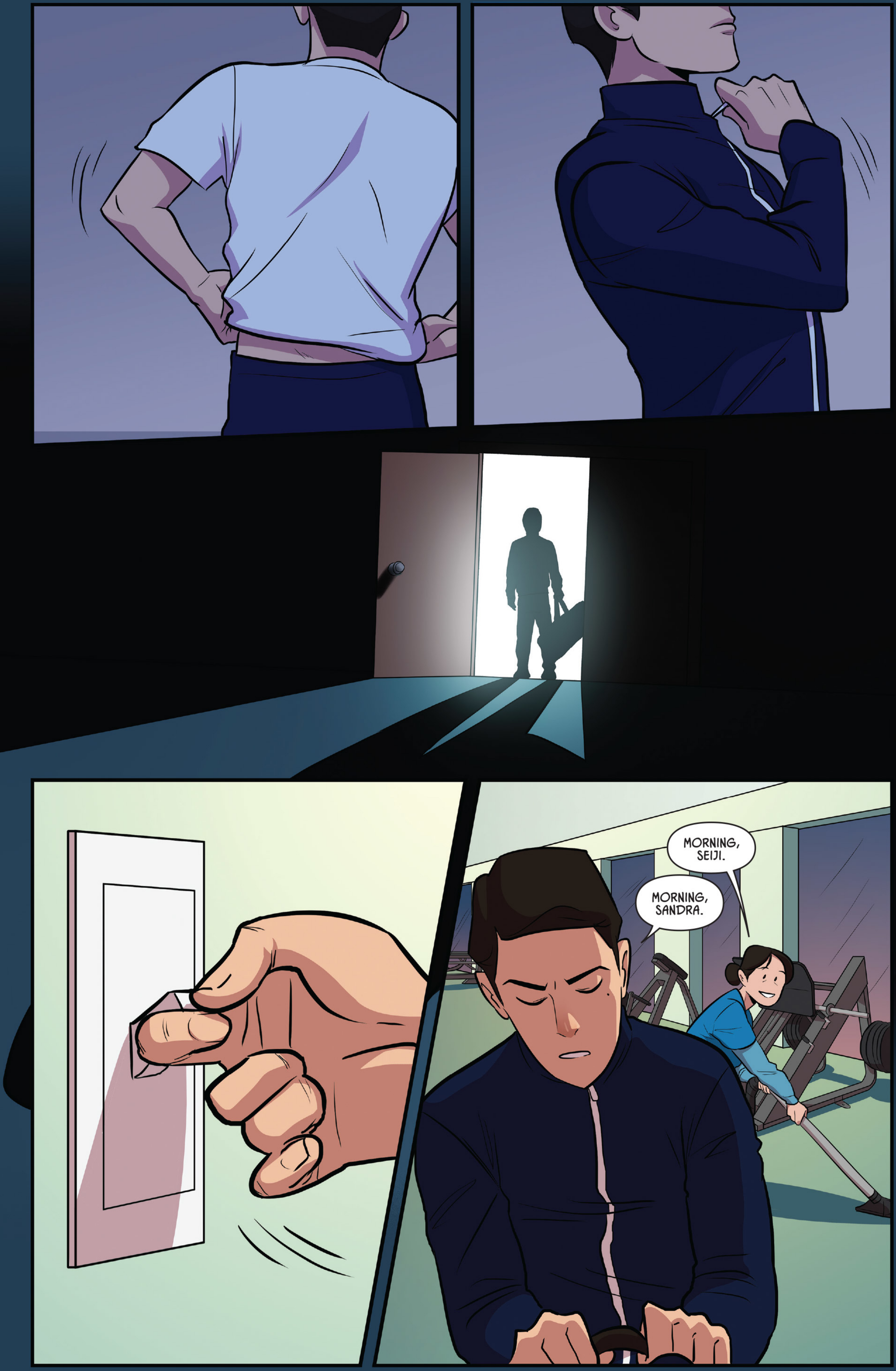
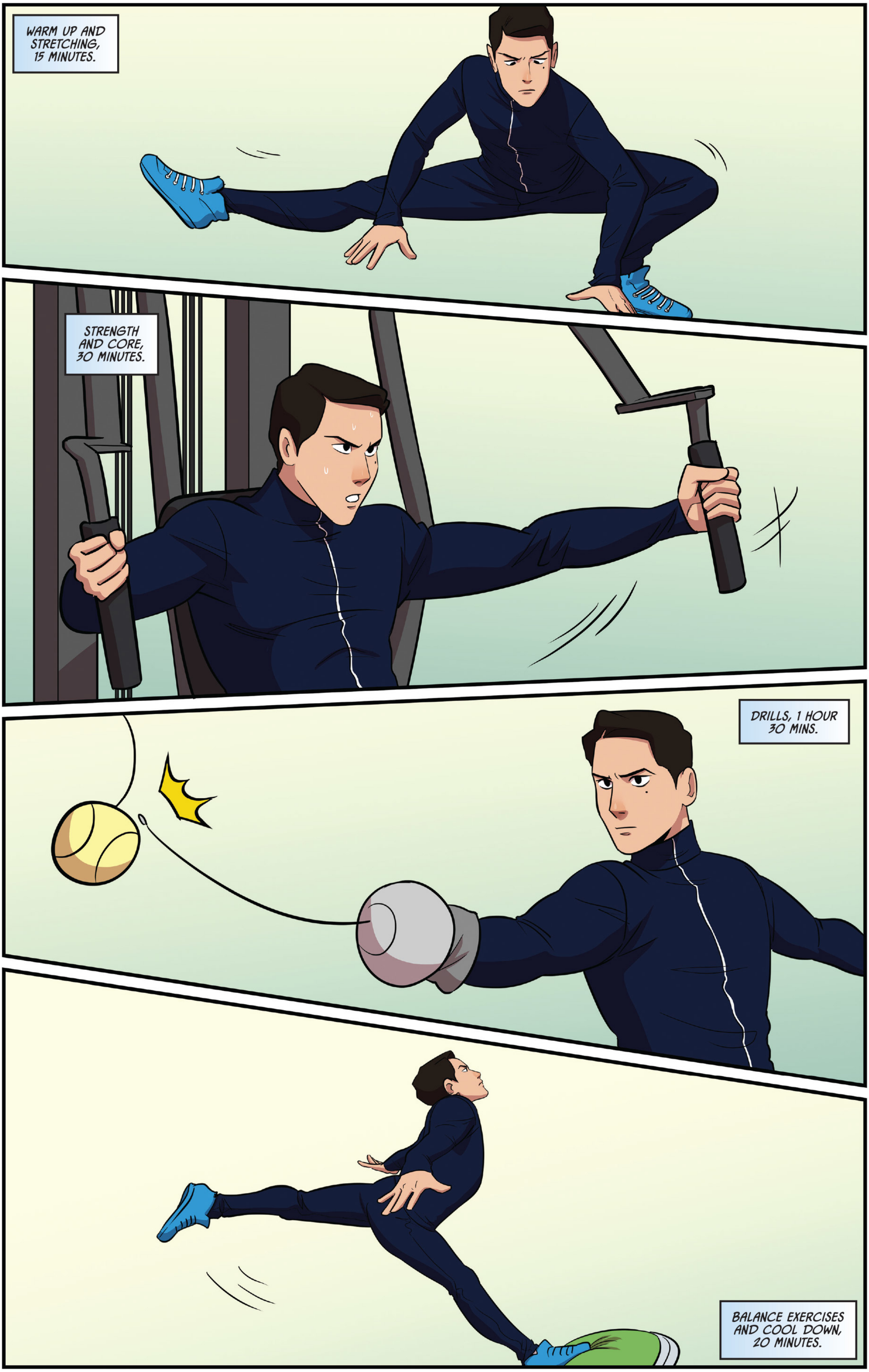
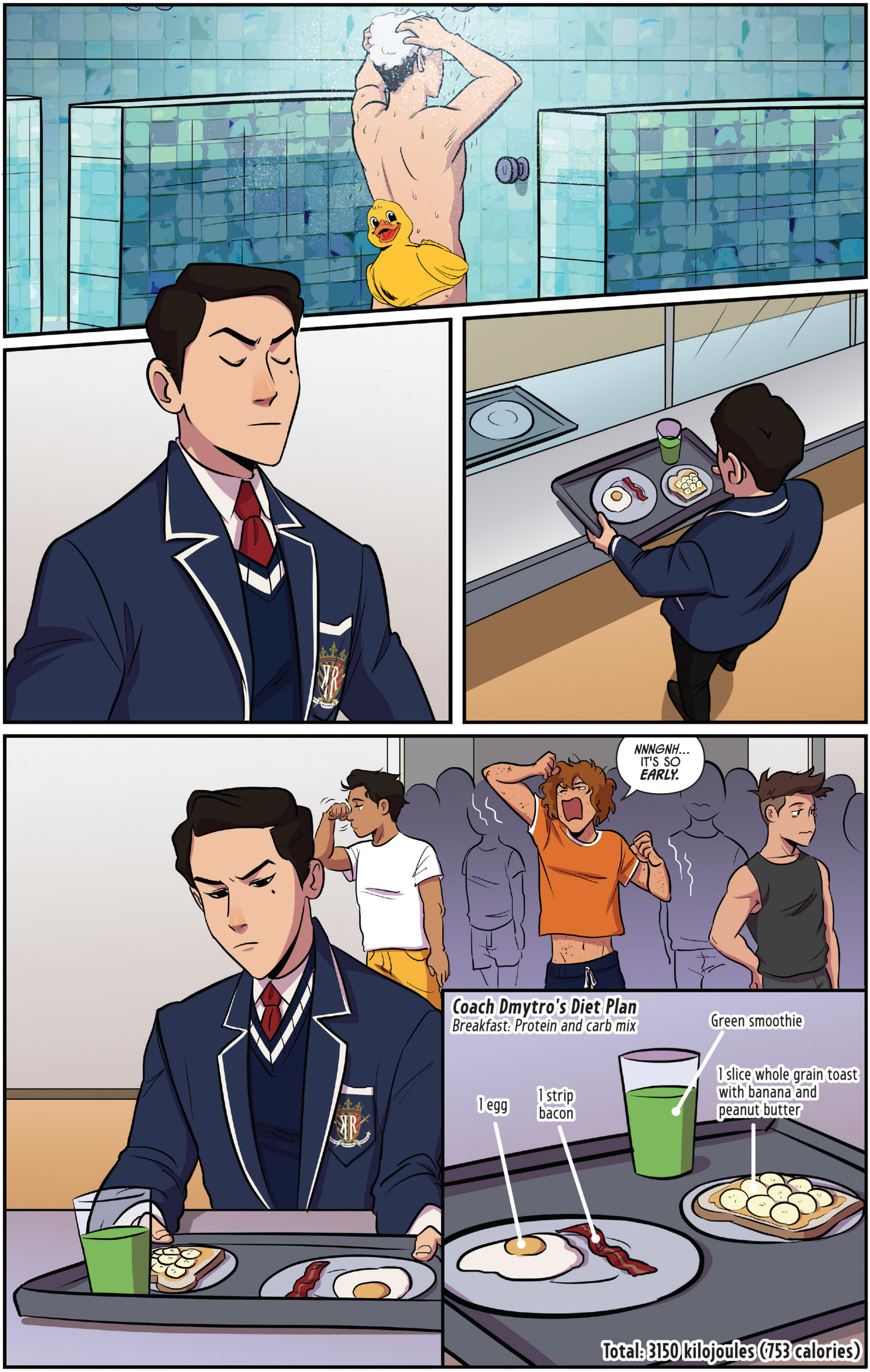
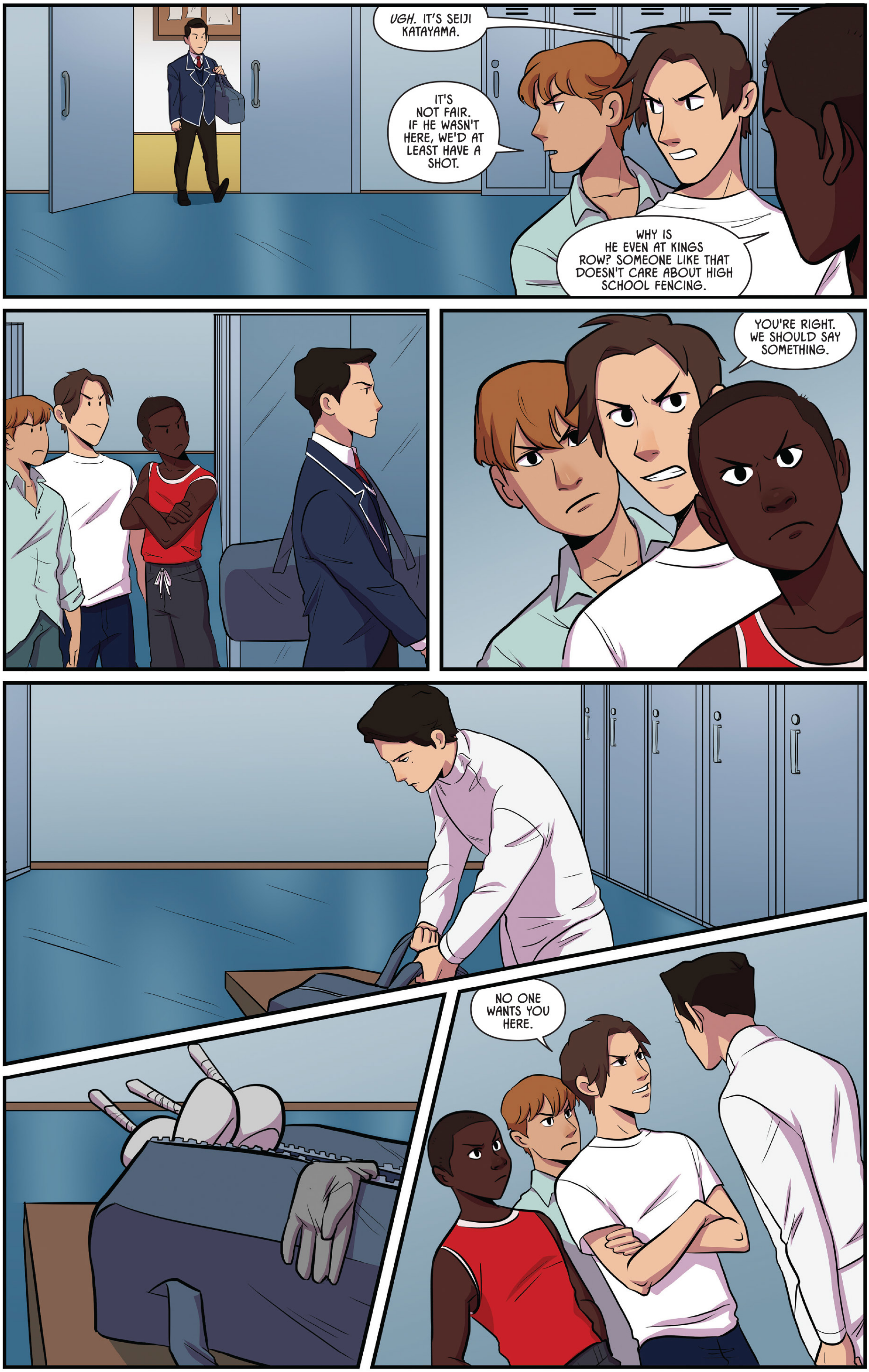
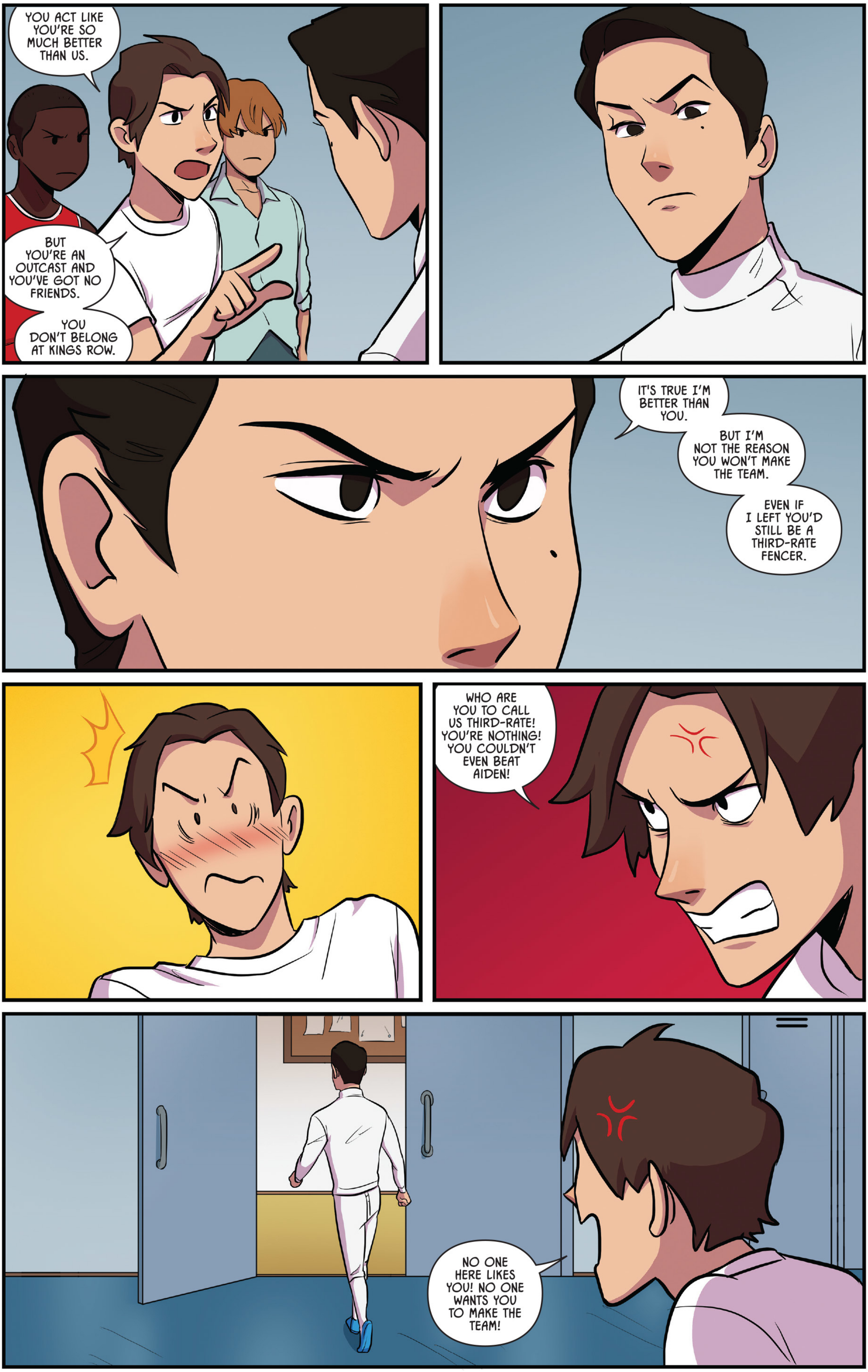

TRYOUTS, DAY THREE.
4:00 AM

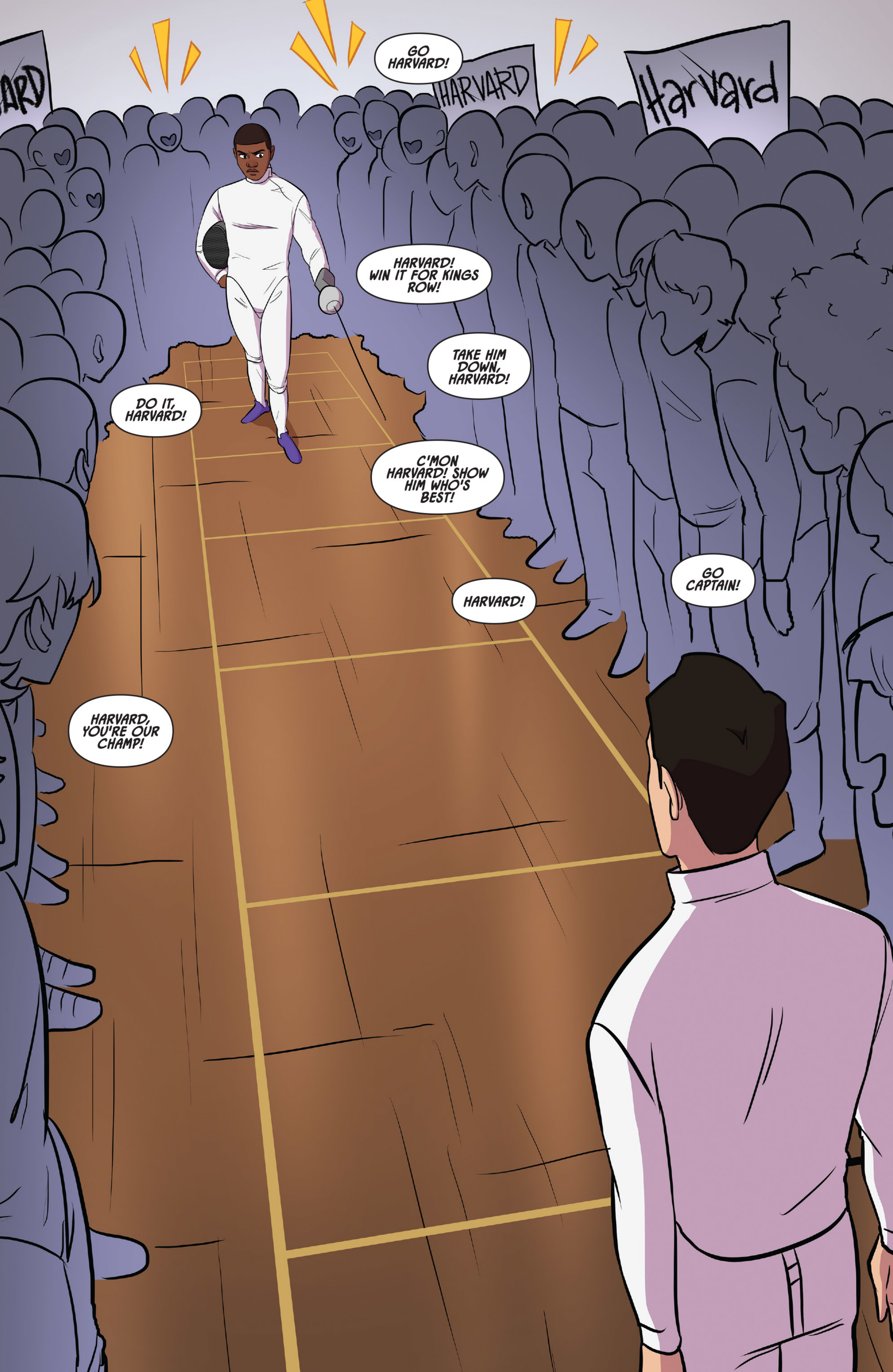

MORNING, SEIJI.
MORNING, SANDRA.

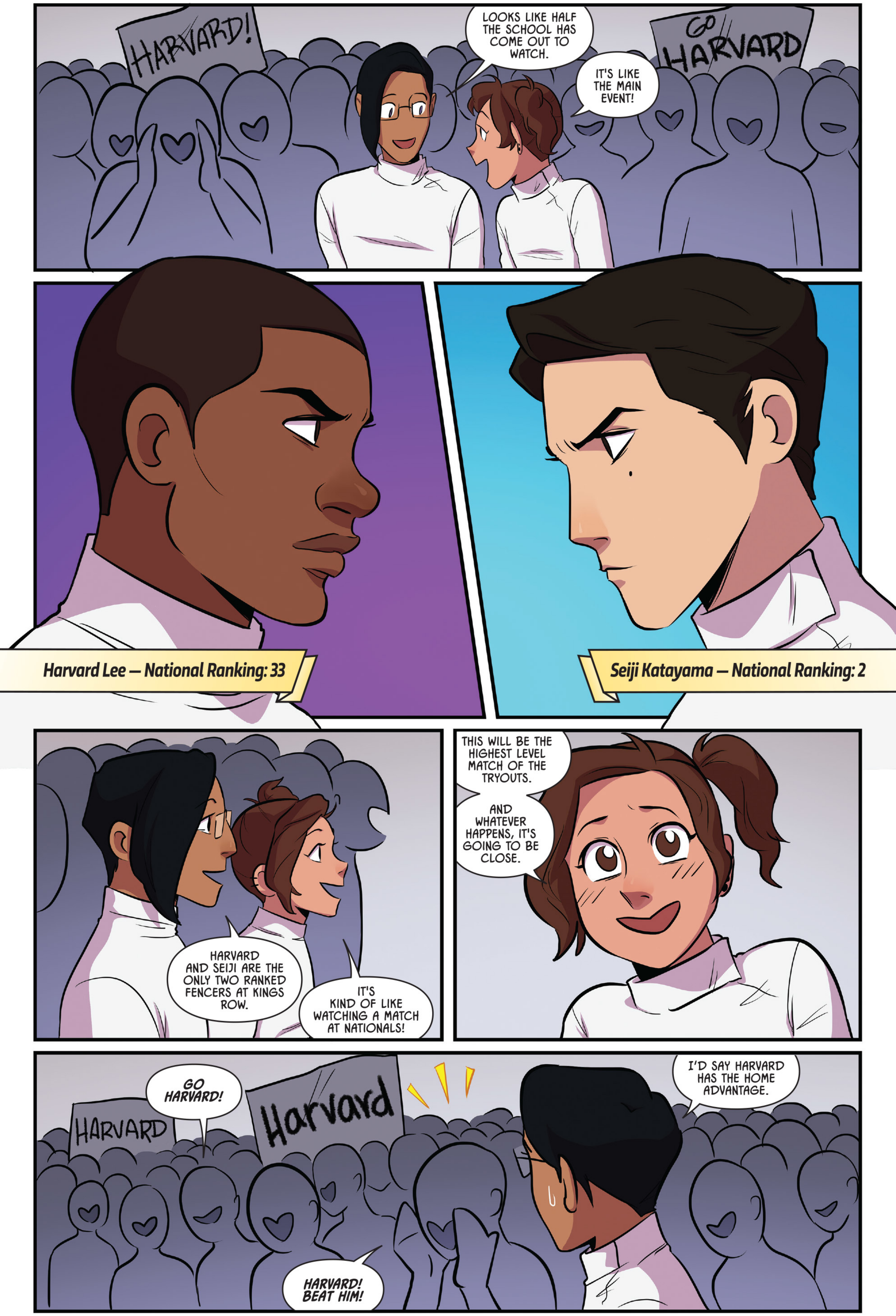

WARM UP AND STRETCHING, 15 MINUTES.
STRENGTH AND CORE, 30 MINUTES.
DRILLS, 1 HOUR 30 MINS.
BALANCE EXERCISES AND COOL DOWN, 20 MINUTES.

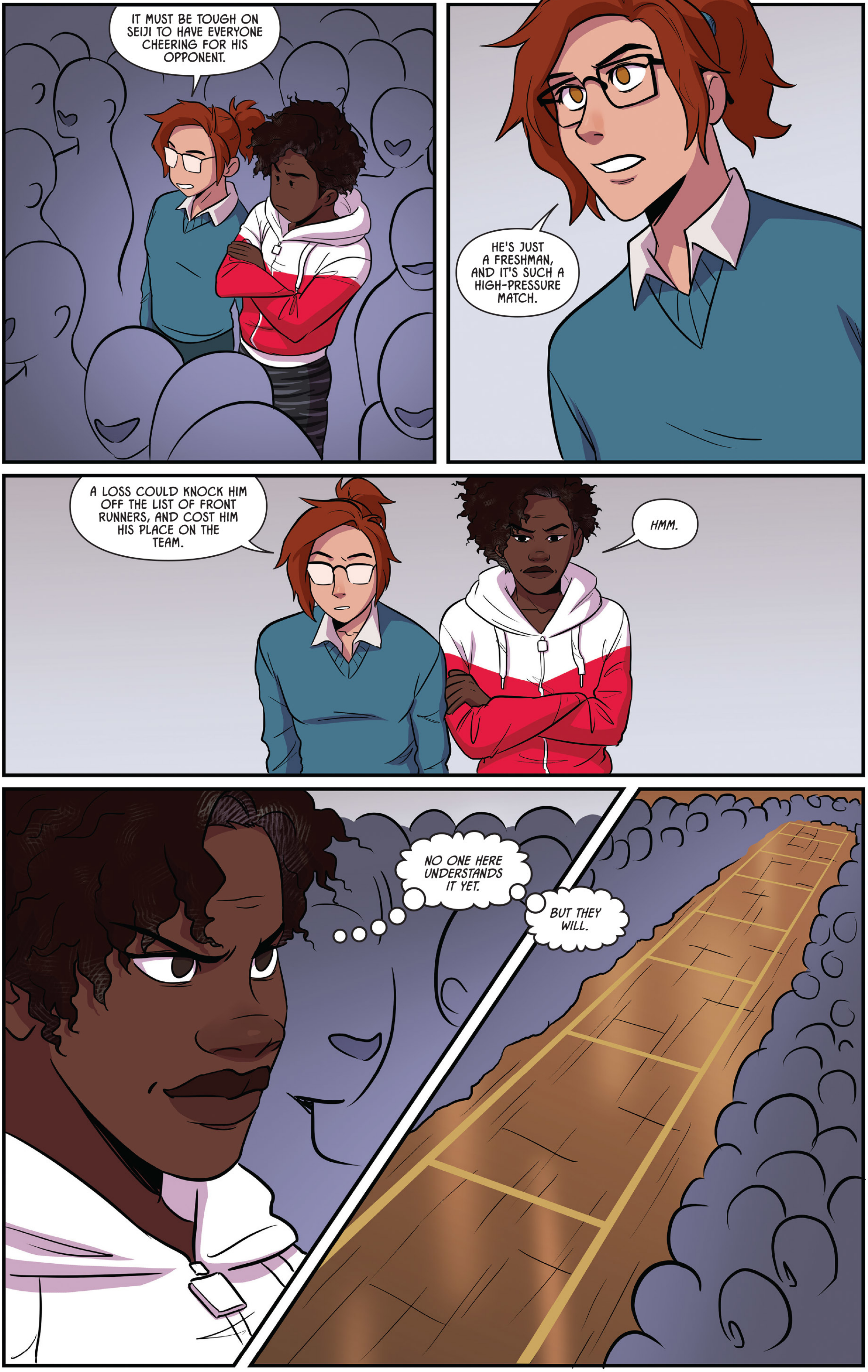

NNNGNH... IT'S SO *EARLY.*
Coach Dmytro's Diet Plan
Breakfast: Protein and carb mix
Green smoothie
1 slice whole grain toast with banana and peanut butter
1 egg
1 strip bacon
Total: 3150 kilojoules (753 calories)

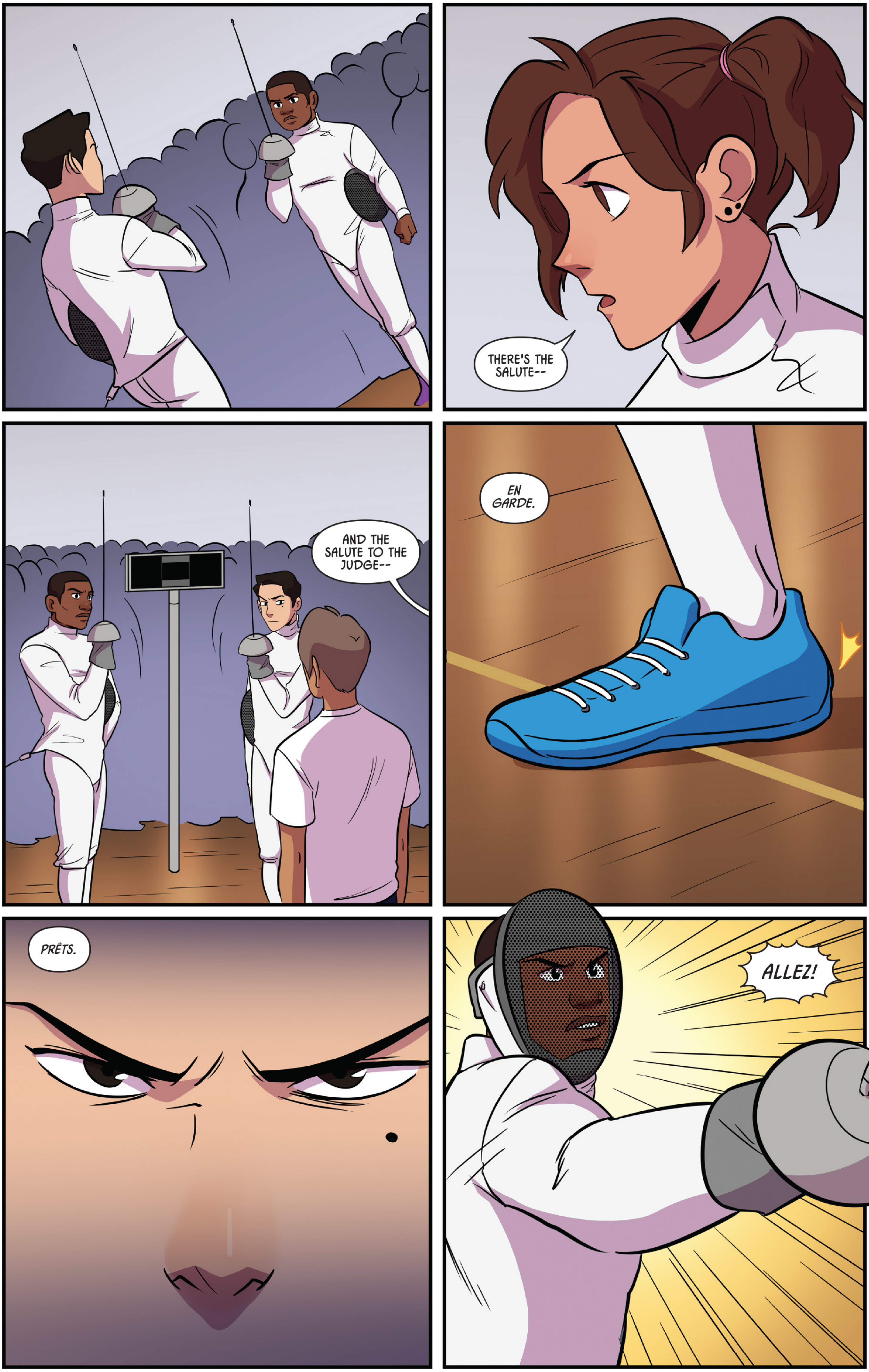

UGH. IT'S SEIJI KATAYAMA.
IT'S NOT FAIR. IF HE WASN'T HERE, WE'D AT LEAST HAVE A SHOT.
WHY IS HE EVEN AT KINGS ROW? SOMEONE LIKE THAT DOESN'T CARE ABOUT HIGH SCHOOL FENCING.
YOU'RE RIGHT. WE SHOULD SAY SOMETHING.
NO ONE WANTS YOU HERE.

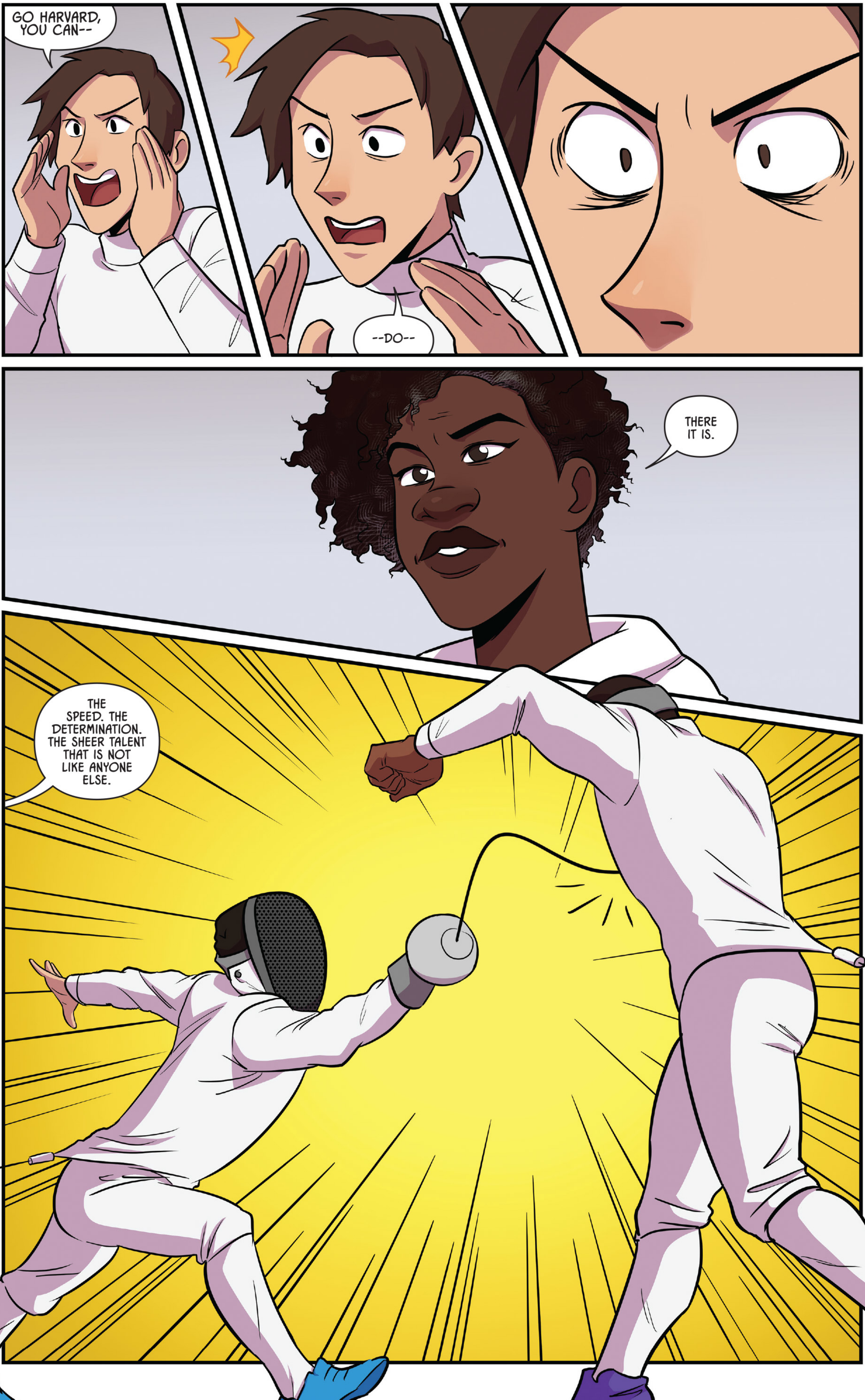

YOU ACT LIKE YOU'RE SO MUCH BETTER THAN US.
BUT YOU'RE AN OUTCAST AND YOU'VE GOT NO FRIENDS.
YOU DON'T BELONG AT KINGS ROW.
IT'S TRUE I'M BETTER THAN YOU.
BUT I'M NOT THE REASON YOU WON'T MAKE THE TEAM.
EVEN IF I LEFT YOU'D STILL BE A THIRD-RATE FENCER.
WHO ARE YOU TO CALL US THIRD-RATE! YOU'RE NOTHING! YOU COULDN'T EVEN BEAT AIDEN!
NO ONE HERE LIKES YOU! NO ONE WANTS YOU TO MAKE THE TEAM!

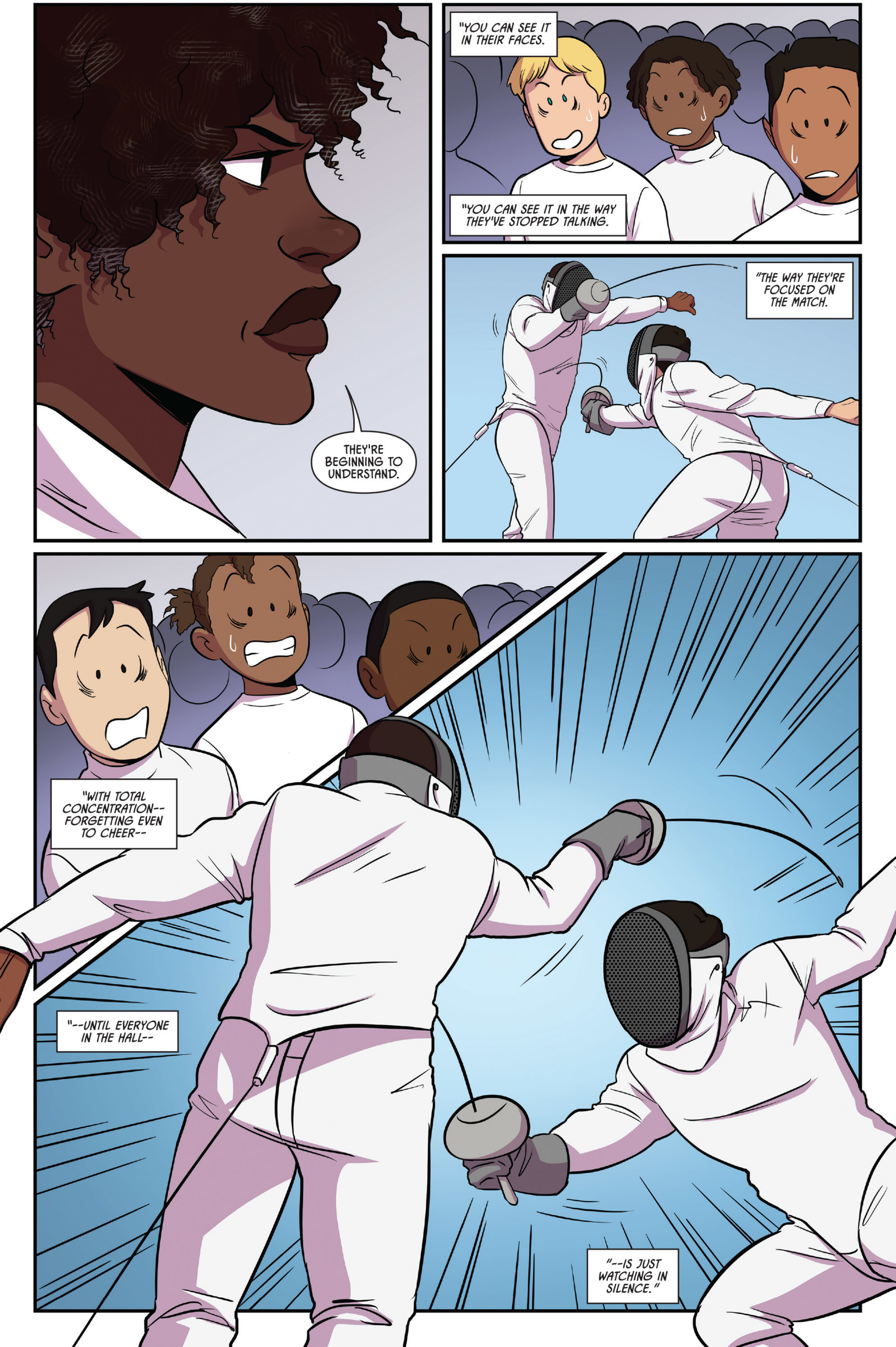

ARD
GO HARVARD!
HARVARD
Harvard
HARVARD! WIN IT FOR KINGS ROW!
TAKE HIM DOWN, HARVARD!
DO IT, HARVARD!
C'MON HARVARD! SHOW HIM WHO'S BEST!
GO CAPTAIN!
HARVARD!
HARVARD, YOU'RE OUR CHAMP!

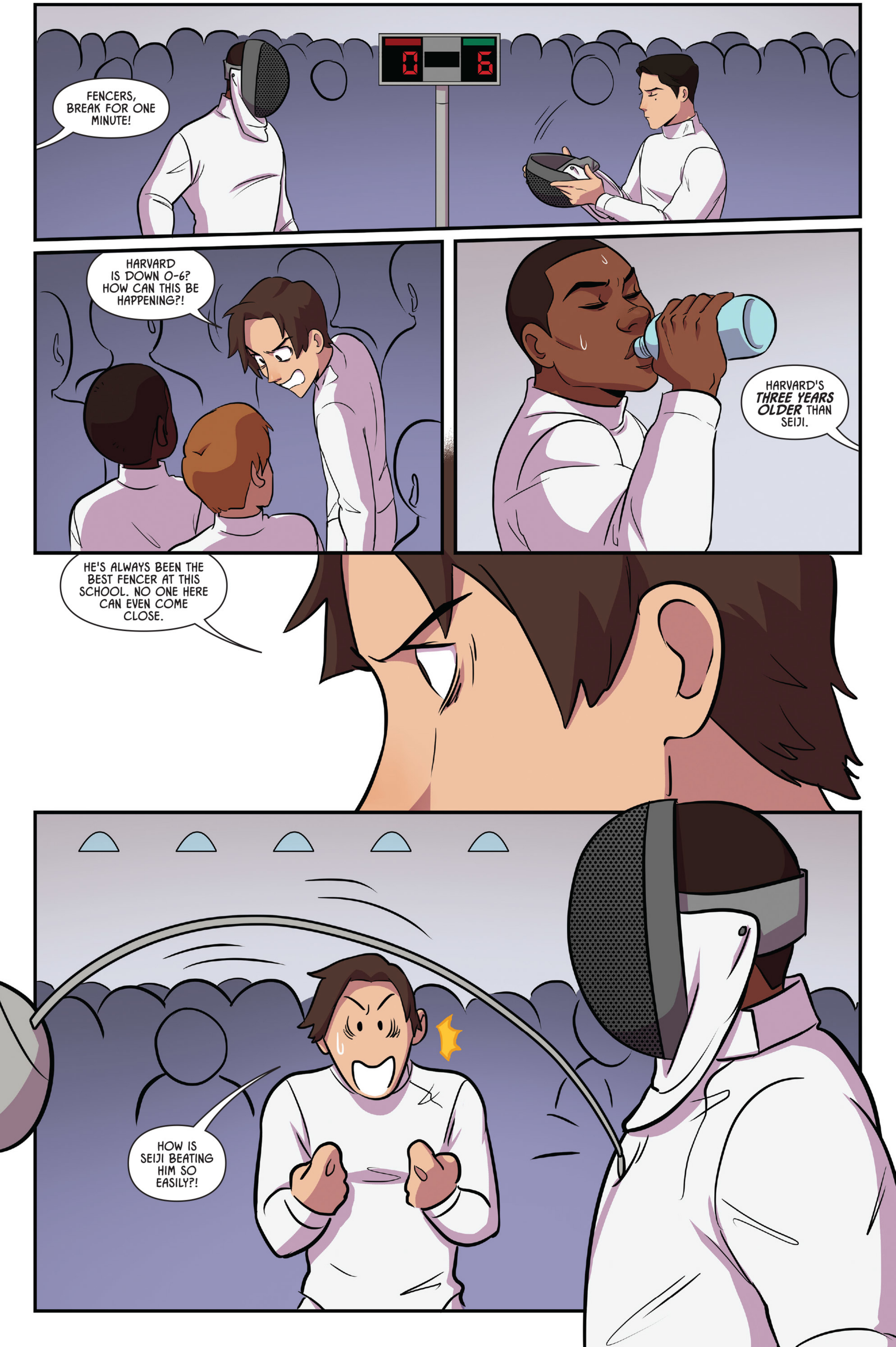

HARVARD!
GO HARVARD
LOOKS LIKE HALF THE SCHOOL HAS COME OUT TO WATCH.
IT'S LIKE THE MAIN EVENT!
Harvard Lee — National Ranking: 33
Seiji Katayama — National Ranking: 2
HARVARD AND SEIJI ARE THE ONLY TWO RANKED FENCERS AT KINGS ROW.
IT'S KIND OF LIKE WATCHING A MATCH AT NATIONALS!
THIS WILL BE THE HIGHEST LEVEL MATCH OF THE TRYOUTS.
AND WHATEVER HAPPENS, IT'S GOING TO BE CLOSE.
HARVARD
GO HARVARD!
Harvard
I'D SAY HARVARD HAS THE HOME ADVANTAGE.
HARVARD! BEAT HIM!

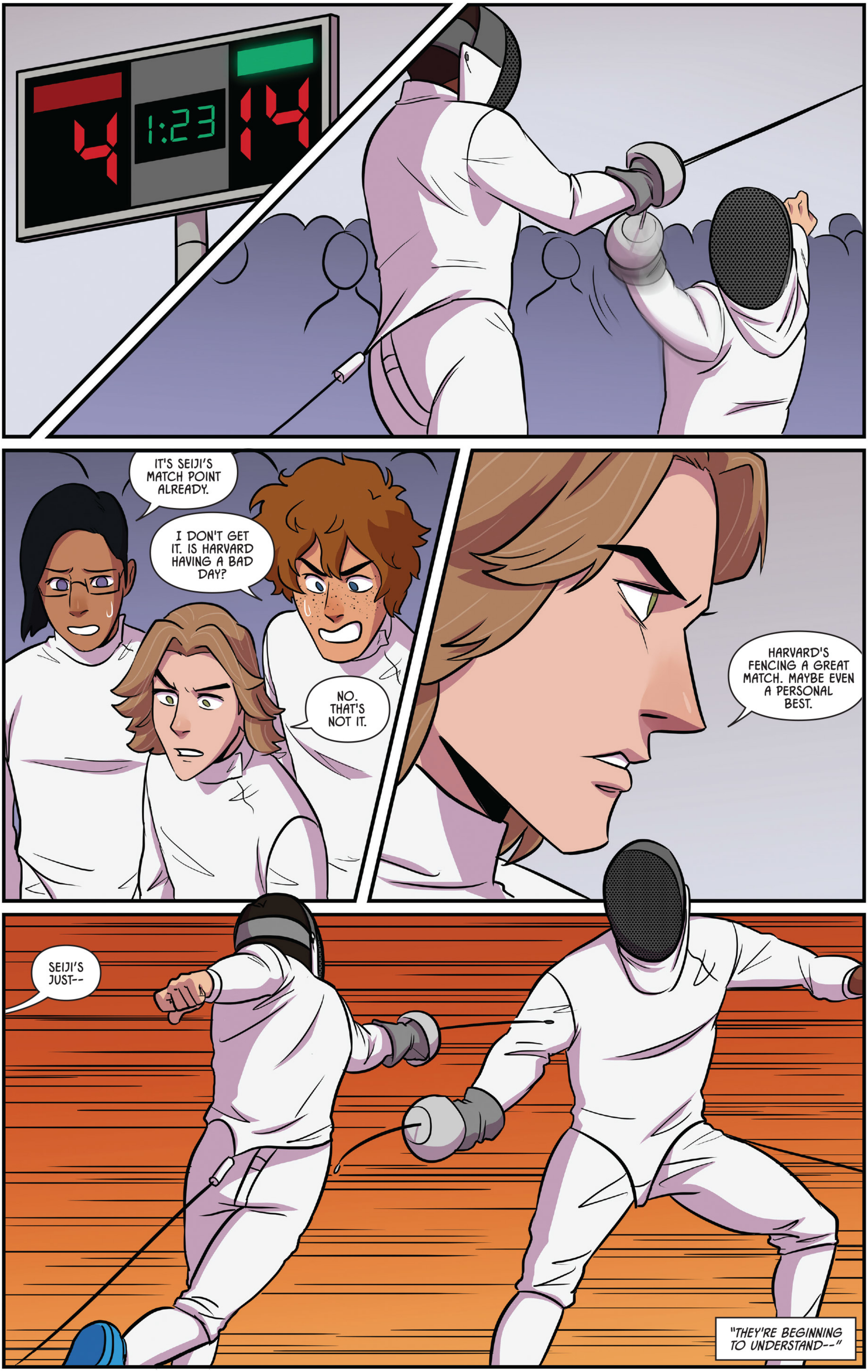

IT MUST BE TOUGH ON SEIJI TO HAVE EVERYONE CHEERING FOR HIS OPPONENT.
HE'S JUST A FRESHMAN, AND IT'S SUCH A HIGH-PRESSURE MATCH.
A LOSS COULD KNOCK HIM OFF THE LIST OF FRONT RUNNERS, AND COST HIM HIS PLACE ON THE TEAM.
HMM.
NO ONE HERE UNDERSTANDS IT YET.
BUT THEY WILL.

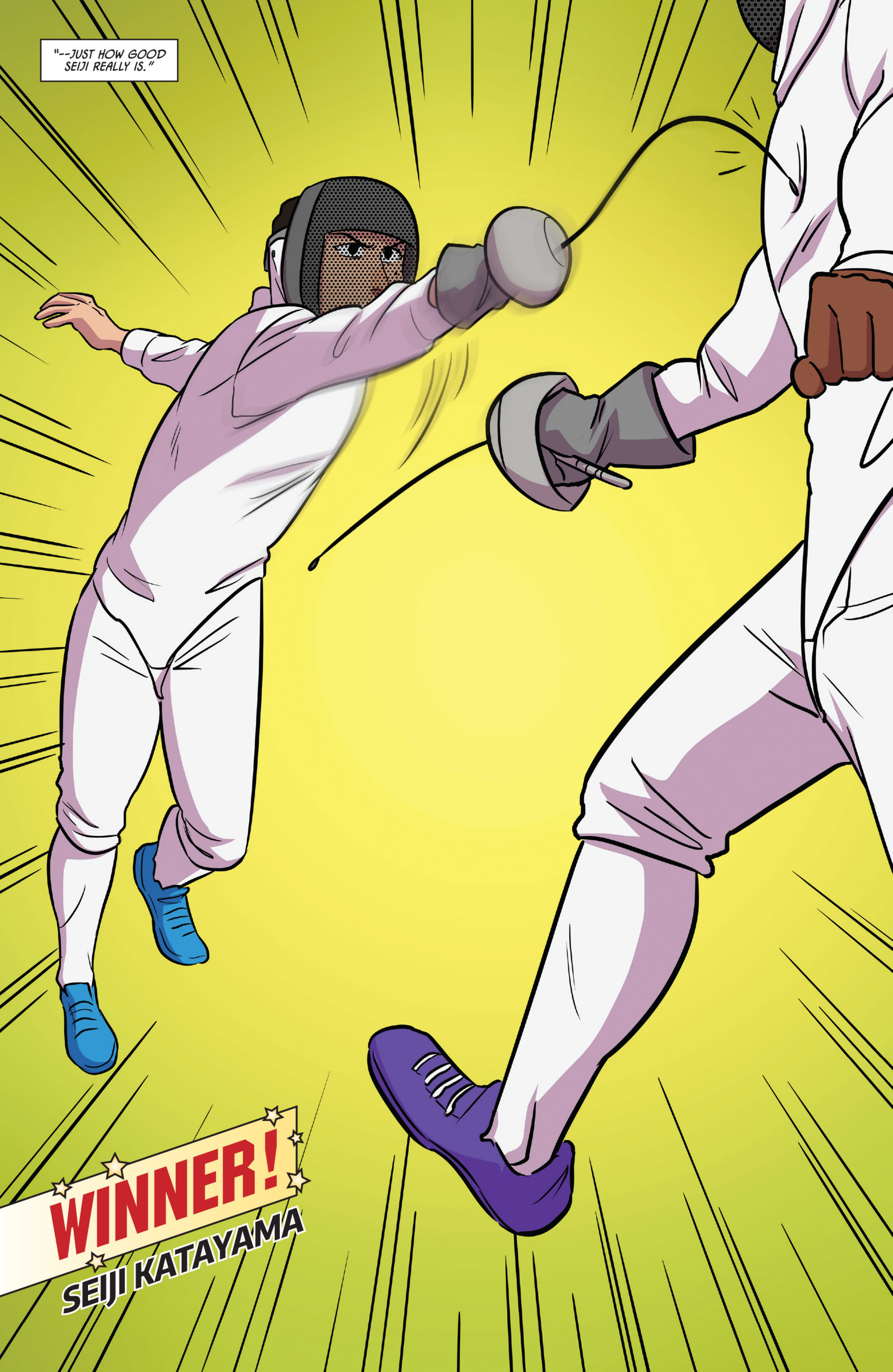

THERE'S THE SALUTE--
AND THE SALUTE TO THE JUDGE--
EN GARDE.
PRÊTS.
ALLEZ!

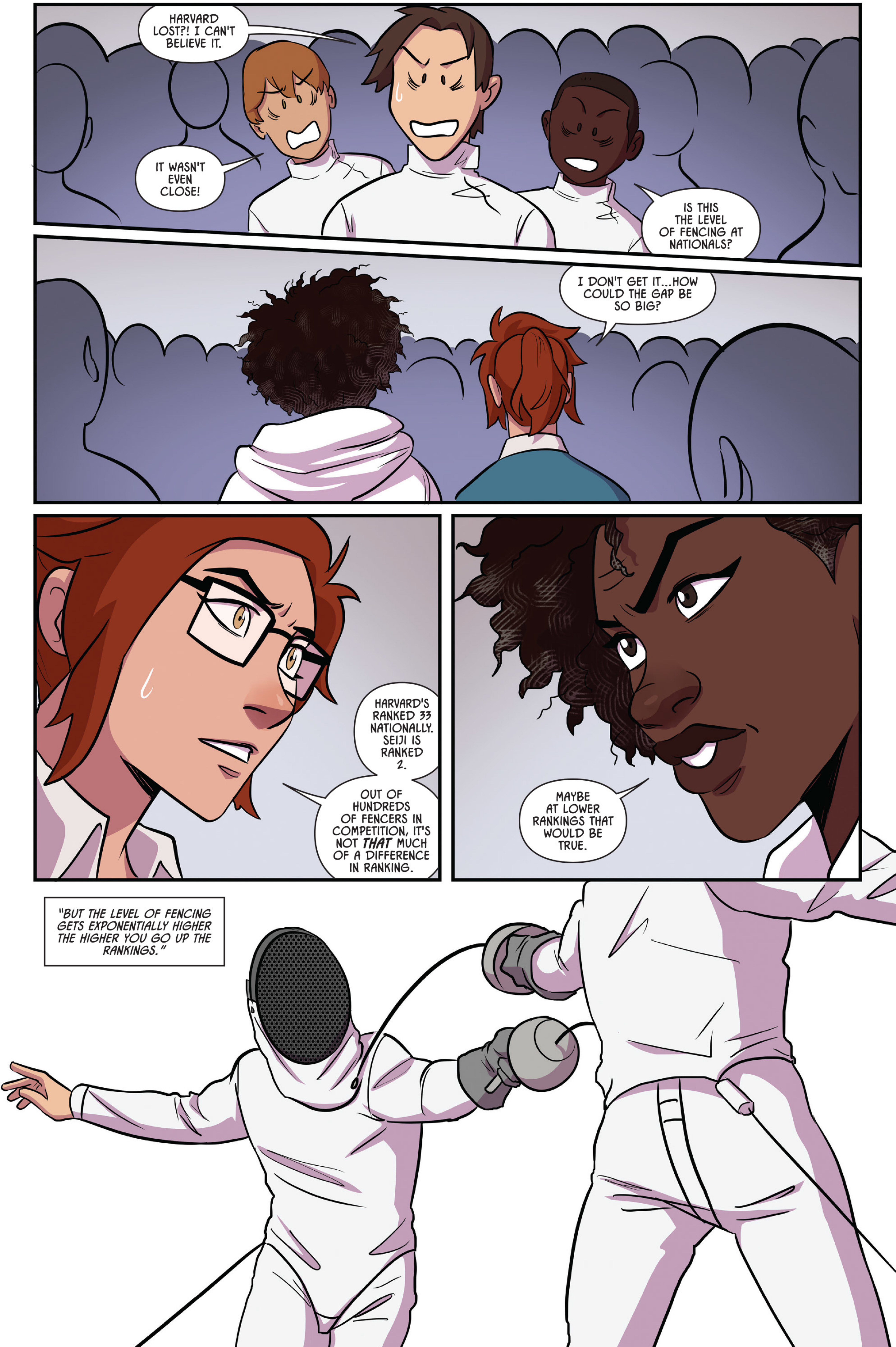

GO HARVARD, YOU CAN--
--DO--
THERE IT IS.
THE SPEED. THE DETERMINATION. THE SHEER TALENT THAT IS NOT LIKE ANYONE ELSE.

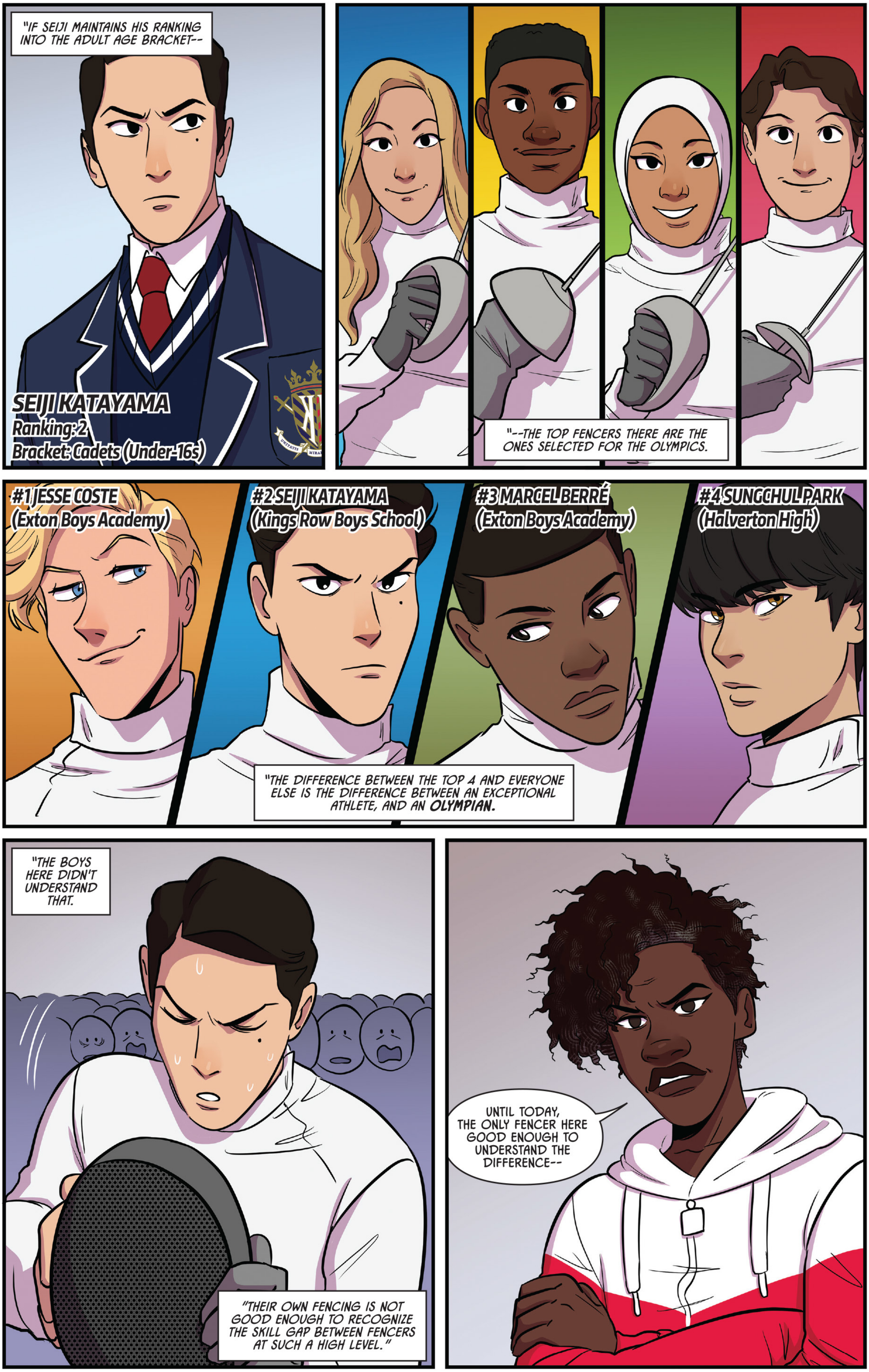

THEY'RE BEGINNING TO UNDERSTAND.
"YOU CAN SEE IT IN THEIR FACES.
"YOU CAN SEE IT IN THE WAY THEY'VE STOPPED TALKING.
"THE WAY THEY'RE FOCUSED ON THE MATCH.
"WITH TOTAL CONCENTRATION-- FORGETTING EVEN TO CHEER--
"--UNTIL EVERYONE IN THE HALL--
"--IS JUST WATCHING IN SILENCE."

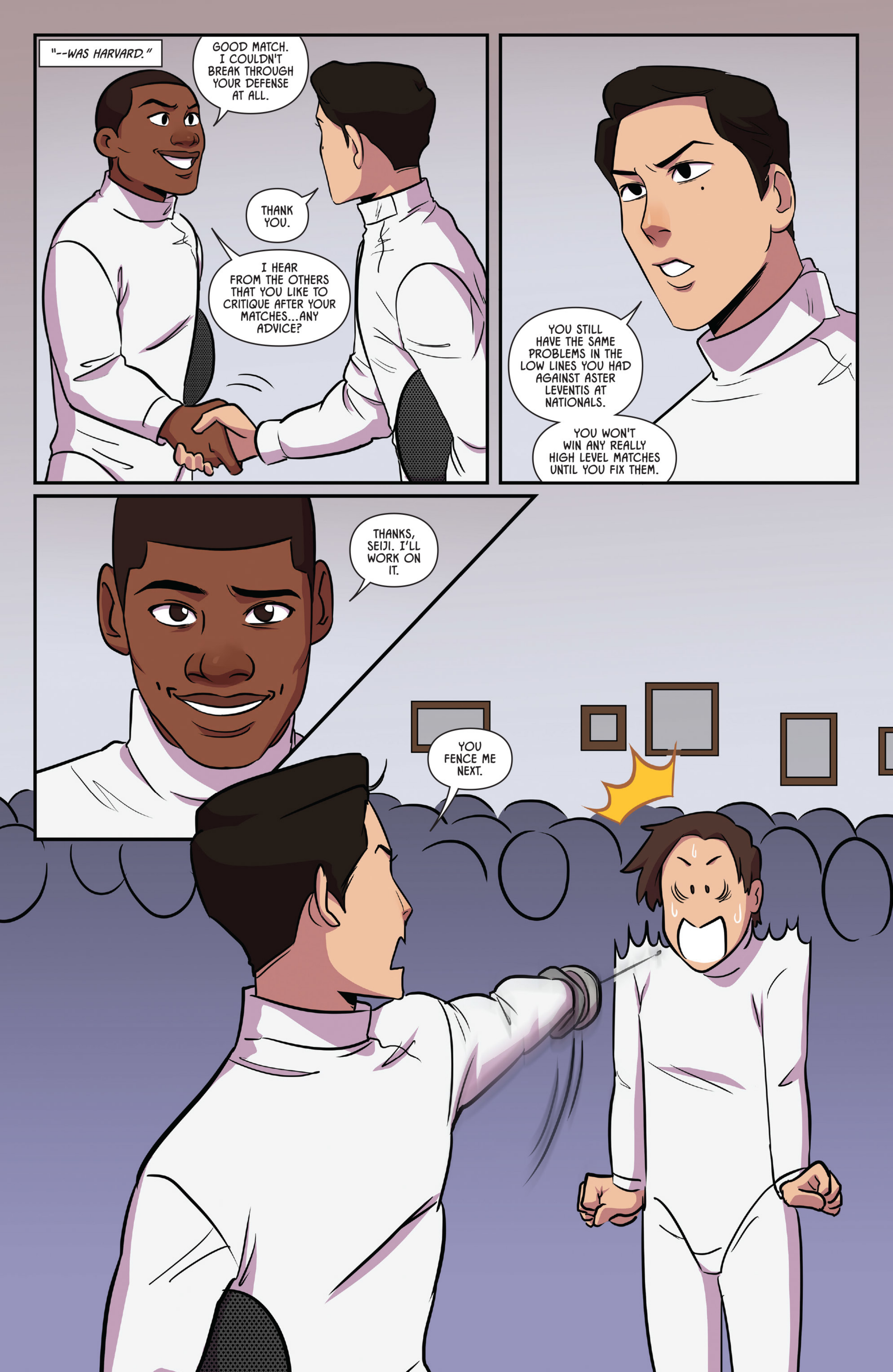

FENCERS, BREAK FOR ONE MINUTE!
0 6
HARVARD IS DOWN 0-6? HOW CAN THIS BE HAPPENING?!
HARVARD'S ***THREE YEARS OLDER*** THAN SEIJI.
HE'S ALWAYS BEEN THE BEST FENCER AT THIS SCHOOL. NO ONE HERE CAN EVEN COME CLOSE.
HOW IS SEIJI BEATING HIM SO EASILY?!

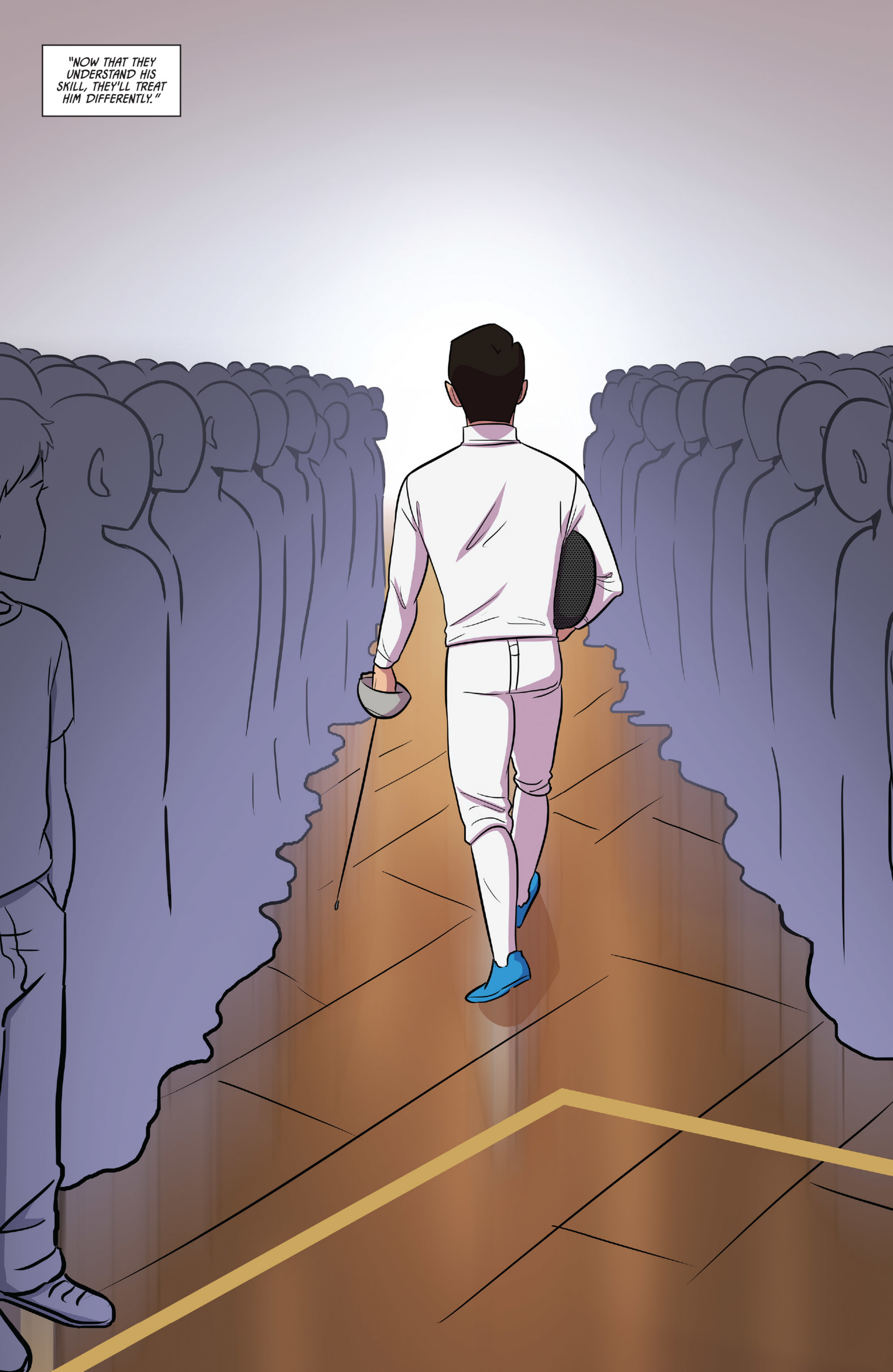

4
1:23
14
IT'S SEIJI'S MATCH POINT ALREADY.
I DON'T GET IT. IS HARVARD HAVING A BAD DAY?
NO. THAT'S NOT IT.
HARVARD'S FENCING A GREAT MATCH. MAYBE EVEN A PERSONAL BEST.
SEIJI'S JUST--
"THEY'RE BEGINNING TO UNDERSTAND--"

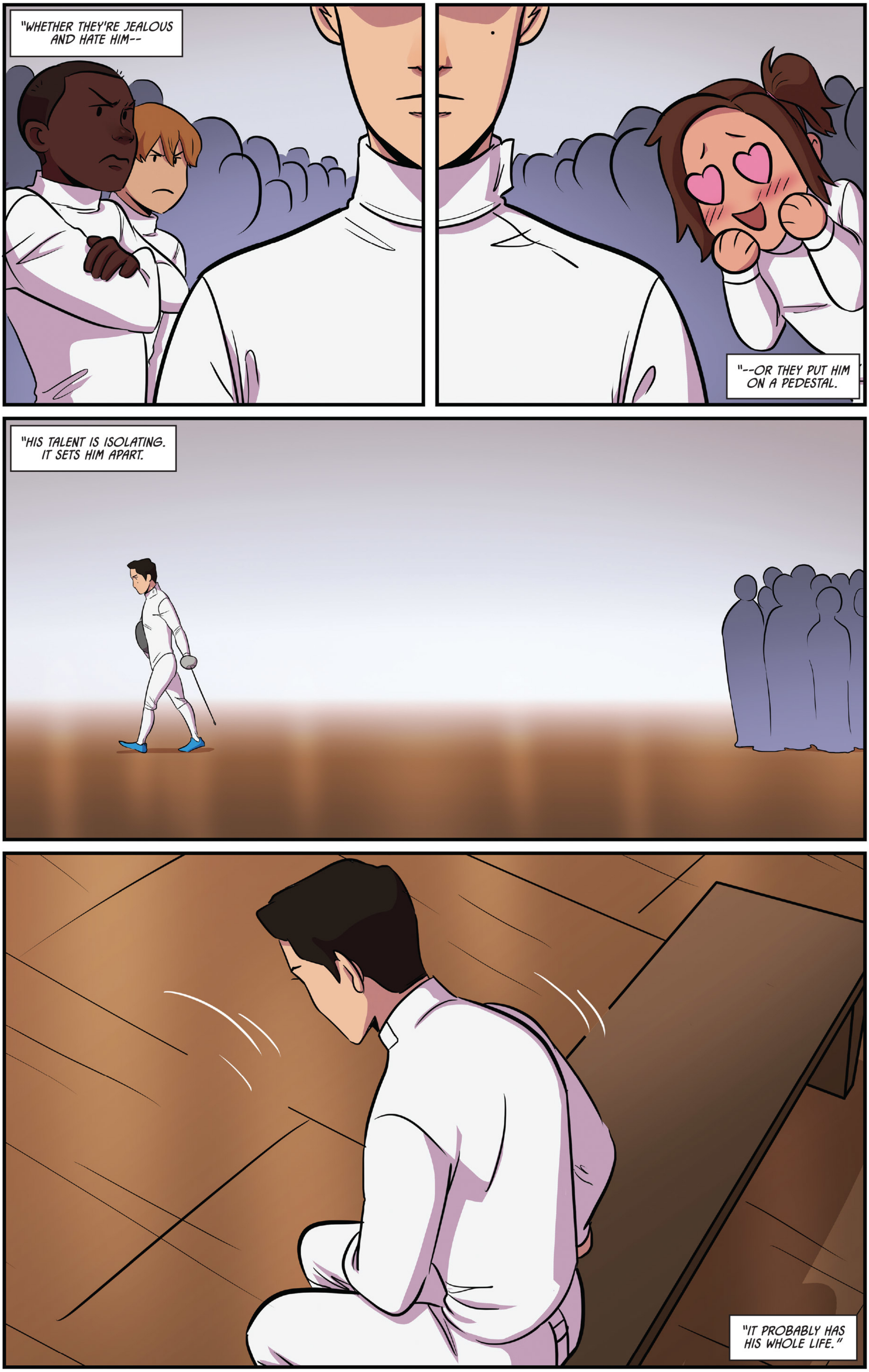

"--JUST HOW GOOD SEIJI REALLY IS."
WINNER!
SEIJI KATAYAMA

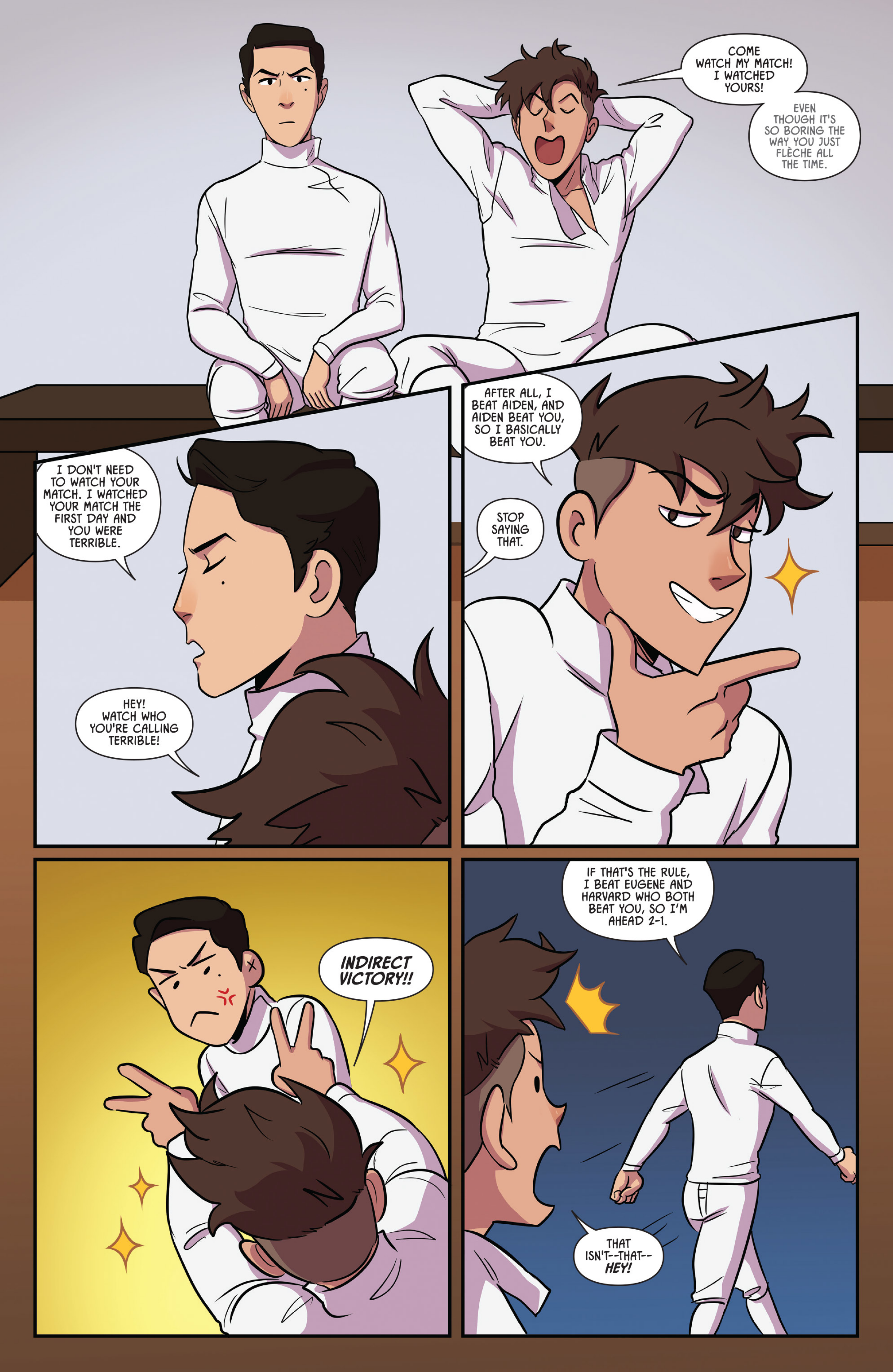

HARVARD LOST?! I CAN'T BELIEVE IT.
IT WASN'T EVEN CLOSE!
IS THIS THE LEVEL OF FENCING AT NATIONALS?
I DON'T GET IT...HOW COULD THE GAP BE SO BIG?
HARVARD'S RANKED 33 NATIONALLY. SEIJI IS RANKED 2.
OUT OF HUNDREDS OF FENCERS IN COMPETITION, IT'S NOT THAT MUCH OF A DIFFERENCE IN RANKING.
MAYBE AT LOWER RANKINGS THAT WOULD BE TRUE.
"BUT THE LEVEL OF FENCING GETS EXPONENTIALLY HIGHER THE HIGHER YOU GO UP THE RANKINGS."

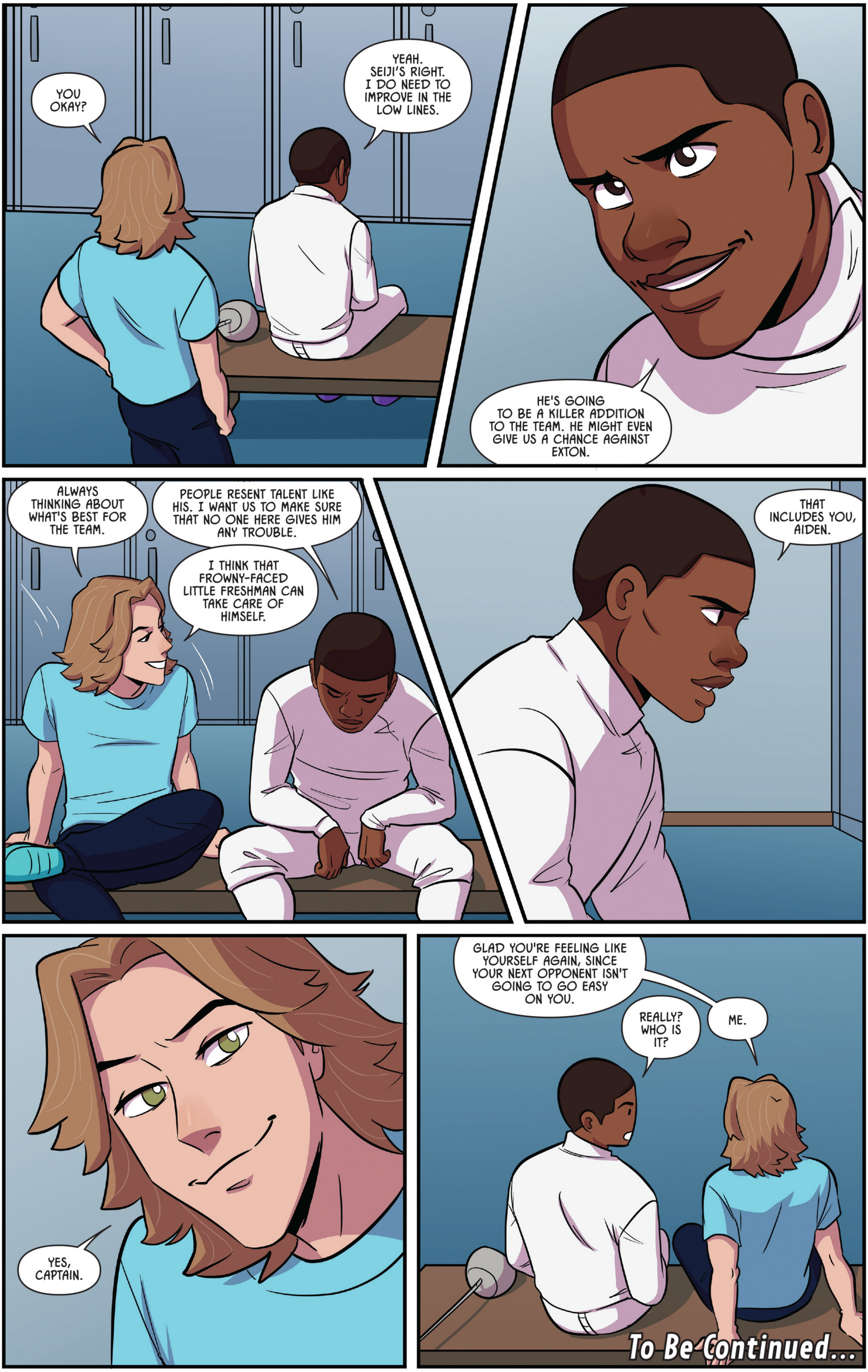

"IF SEIJI MAINTAINS HIS RANKING INTO THE ADULT AGE BRACKET--
SEIJI KATAYAMA
Ranking: 2
Bracket: Cadets (Under-16s)
"--THE TOP FENCERS THERE ARE THE ONES SELECTED FOR THE OLYMPICS.
#1 JESSE COSTE (Exton Boys Academy)
#2 SEIJI KATAYAMA (Kings Row Boys School)
#3 MARCEL BERRÉ (Exton Boys Academy)
#4 SUNGCHUL PARK (Halverton High)
"THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE TOP 4 AND EVERYONE ELSE IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN AN EXCEPTIONAL ATHLETE, AND AN OLYMPIAN.
"THE BOYS HERE DIDN'T UNDERSTAND THAT.
"THEIR OWN FENCING IS NOT GOOD ENOUGH TO RECOGNIZE THE SKILL GAP BETWEEN FENCERS AT SUCH A HIGH LEVEL."
UNTIL TODAY, THE ONLY FENCER HERE GOOD ENOUGH TO UNDERSTAND THE DIFFERENCE--


"--WAS HARVARD."
GOOD MATCH. I COULDN'T BREAK THROUGH YOUR DEFENSE AT ALL.
THANK YOU.
I HEAR FROM THE OTHERS THAT YOU LIKE TO CRITIQUE AFTER YOUR MATCHES...ANY ADVICE?
YOU STILL HAVE THE SAME PROBLEMS IN THE LOW LINES YOU HAD AGAINST ASTER LEVENTIS AT NATIONALS.
YOU WON'T WIN ANY REALLY HIGH LEVEL MATCHES UNTIL YOU FIX THEM.
THANKS, SEIJI. I'LL WORK ON IT.
YOU FENCE ME NEXT.


"NOW THAT THEY UNDERSTAND HIS SKILL, THEY'LL TREAT HIM DIFFERENTLY."


"WHETHER THEY'RE JEALOUS AND HATE HIM--
"--OR THEY PUT HIM ON A PEDESTAL.
"HIS TALENT IS ISOLATING. IT SETS HIM APART.
"IT PROBABLY HAS HIS WHOLE LIFE."


COME WATCH MY MATCH! I WATCHED YOURS!
EVEN THOUGH IT'S SO BORING THE WAY YOU JUST FLÈCHE ALL THE TIME.
I DON'T NEED TO WATCH YOUR MATCH. I WATCHED YOUR MATCH THE FIRST DAY AND YOU WERE TERRIBLE.
HEY! WATCH WHO YOU'RE CALLING TERRIBLE!
AFTER ALL, I BEAT AIDEN, AND AIDEN BEAT YOU, SO I BASICALLY BEAT YOU.
STOP SAYING THAT.
INDIRECT VICTORY!!
IF THAT'S THE RULE, I BEAT EUGENE AND HARVARD WHO BOTH BEAT YOU, SO I'M AHEAD 2-1.
THAT ISN'T--THAT-- *HEY!*


YOU OKAY?
YEAH. SEIJI'S RIGHT. I DO NEED TO IMPROVE IN THE LOW LINES.
HE'S GOING TO BE A KILLER ADDITION TO THE TEAM. HE MIGHT EVEN GIVE US A CHANCE AGAINST EXTON.
ALWAYS THINKING ABOUT WHAT'S BEST FOR THE TEAM.
PEOPLE RESENT TALENT LIKE HIS. I WANT US TO MAKE SURE THAT NO ONE HERE GIVES HIM ANY TROUBLE.
I THINK THAT FROWNY-FACED LITTLE FRESHMAN CAN TAKE CARE OF HIMSELF.
THAT INCLUDES YOU, AIDEN.
YES, CAPTAIN.
GLAD YOU'RE FEELING LIKE YOURSELF AGAIN, SINCE YOUR NEXT OPPONENT ISN'T GOING TO GO EASY ON YOU.
REALLY? WHO IS IT?
ME.
To Be Continued...

BOOM! STUDIOS DISCOVER YOURS

JULY RELEASES AND NEWS

QUESTING AT ITS FINEST!

RUINWORLD

JIM HENSON'S BENEATH THE DARK CRYSTAL

THE THRILLING ADVENTURE HOUR

ALSO THIS MONTH

RUN WILD

ICYMI: BY NIGHT #2

GET TO KNOW BOOM! STUDIOS

TO **READ THESE STORIES** AND
DISCOVER MORE NEWS AND UPDATES FOLLOW US

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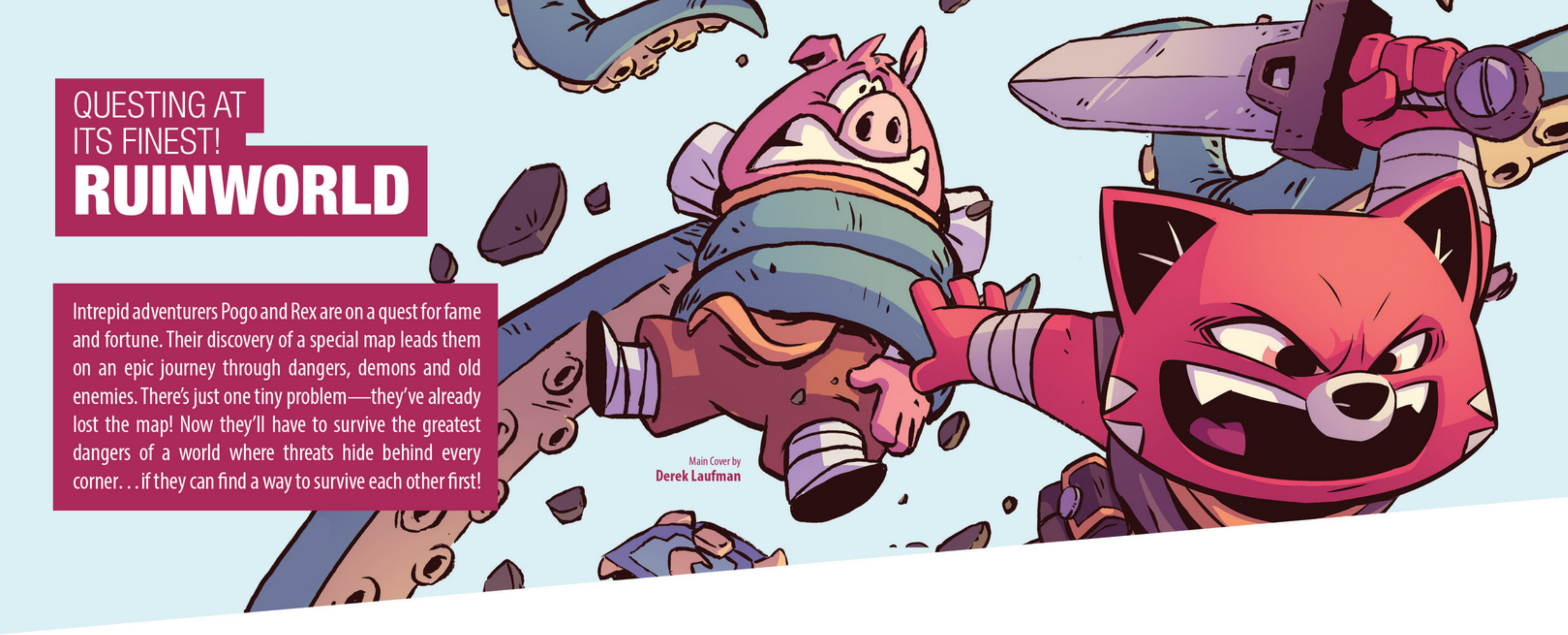
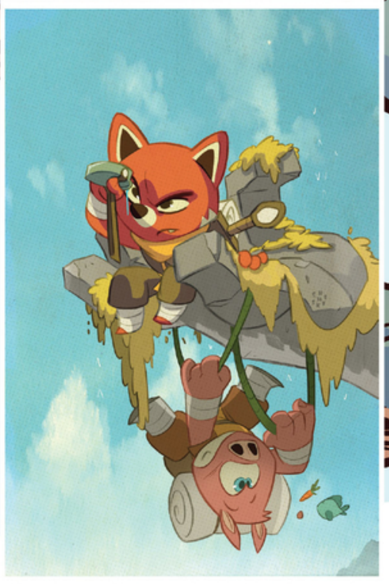
QUESTING AT ITS FINEST!
RUINWORLD

Intrepid adventurers Pogo and Rex are on a quest for fame and fortune. Their discovery of a special map leads them on an epic journey through dangers, demons and old enemies. There's just one tiny problem—they've already lost the map! Now they'll have to survive the greatest dangers of a world where threats hide behind every corner. . . if they can find a way to survive each other first!



Main Cover by
Derek Laufman



Variant Cover by
Sean Galloway

Derek Laufman
Writer/Artist

Tell us a little bit about the questing heroes of *RuinWorld*.

Laufman: The one overarching theme for all the characters in *RuinWorld* is that they are flawed. Our main heroes are no exception to that rule. Pogo and Rex are an unlikely duo brought together by circumstance. Pogo is a pig who grew up listening to fantastic tales of adventure and dreaming about becoming a Ruin Hunter like his grandfather. Raised by his mother and growing up on a small farm, Pogo has seen very little of the world but he's excited to have an opportunity to prove himself.

Rex is an orphan who is half cat and half fox. As a child Rex learned to steal out of necessity for survival. That skill along with his expert swordsmanship has garnered Rex a reputation as one of the top Ruin Hunters around. Along their journey, they will meet a series of characters that will play a much bigger role in the plot and you'll soon realize that the story is much greater than that of our two likeable heroes.

What crazy adventures will Pogo and Rex be getting themselves into in this series?

Laufman: Pogo and Rex find themselves in many funny and dangerous situations. Without spoiling anything too much I can say that they battle a giant Golem, anger an entire tribe of frog people, and light a spark of death and destruction that could most certainly doom all of the Ruinlands. And that's all in the first few issues.

How did you develop the look of *RuinWorld*?

Laufman: The look of *RuinWorld* started with character design sketches for a different story idea entirely. In the beginning stages I thought about doing a book with a much darker tone, but eventually ended up down a path with a more all-ages vibe. For instance, the character designs that eventually became Pogo and Rex, were derived from concepts for a couple of mercenaries. Pogo was more boar-like than pig and carried a spiked club. Rex was a fox with a sinister look—a scar over his eye and wielding a bow. However, in the end those designs and characters eventually went in a different direction. Those new designs for Pogo and Rex became the seed that sprouted the entire look for the series.

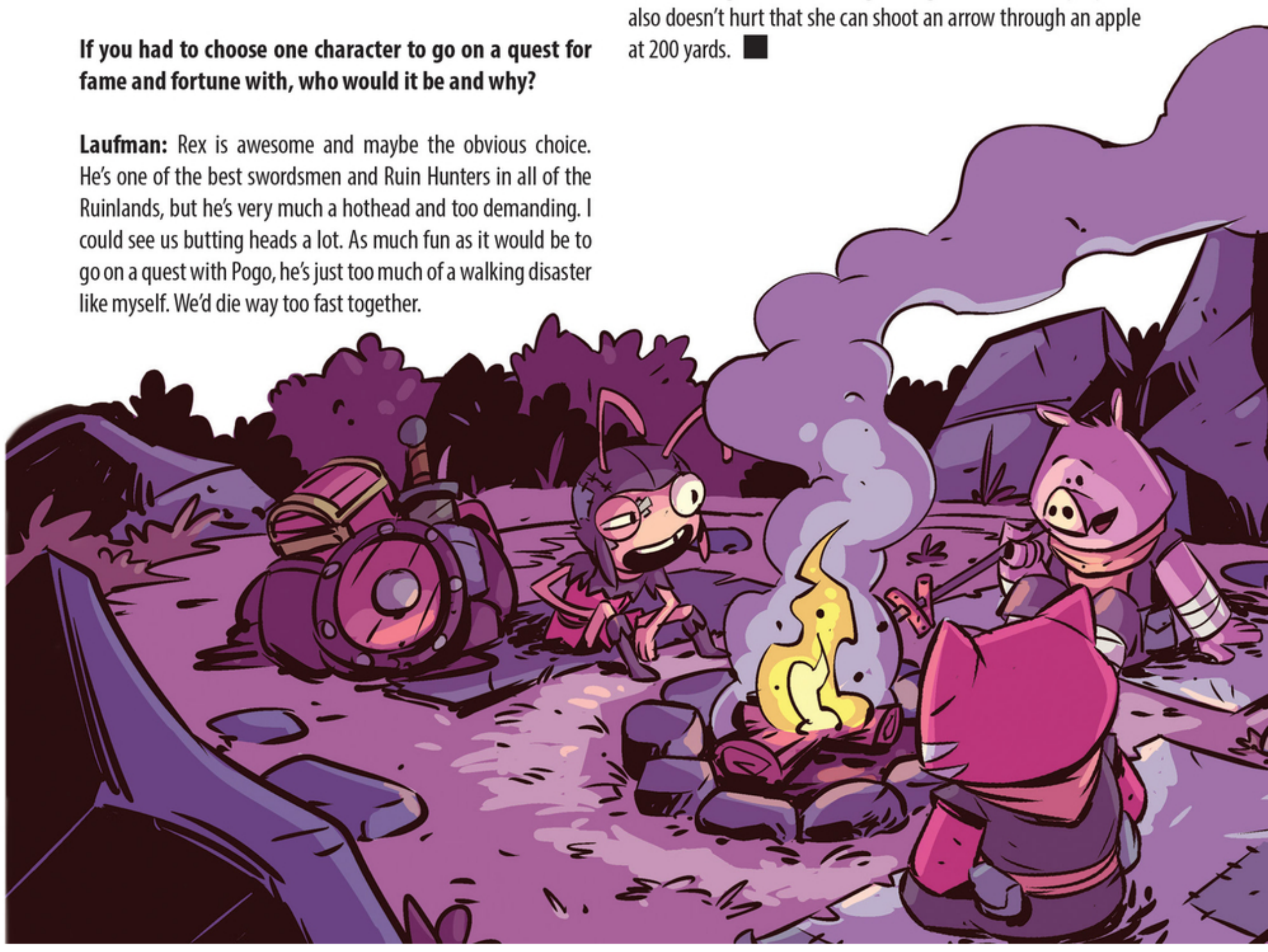
What drew you to the all-ages fantasy genre?

Laufman: I've been a fan of the fantasy genre since I was a small child. I can still remember the first time I watched *Clash of the Titans* and *Star Wars*. My love of fantasy grew further with *The Dark Crystal, Willow, The Secret of NIMH*, and so many other fantasy films and cartoons. It continued to be reinforced with my love of video games when I was introduced to the world of Hyrule on my Nintendo Entertainment System and later with the *Final Fantasy* and *World of Warcraft* series of games. Not surprisingly I found myself drawn towards fantasy comics as well with *Bone, Hellboy,* and *Battle Chasers* to name a few. Fantasy seemed like the perfect place to start with my first comics series.

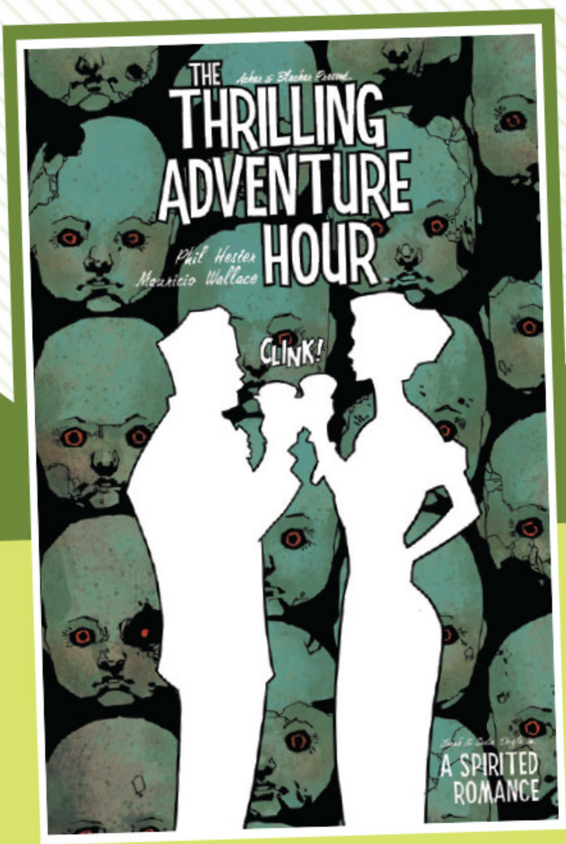
If you had to choose one character to go on a quest for fame and fortune with, who would it be and why?

Laufman: Rex is awesome and maybe the obvious choice. He's one of the best swordsmen and Ruin Hunters in all of the Ruinlands, but he's very much a hothead and too demanding. I could see us butting heads a lot. As much fun as it would be to go on a quest with Pogo, he's just too much of a walking disaster like myself. We'd die way too fast together.

So, if I had to choose, it would probably be Kale, who you'll meet in the second issue. She may be a chipmunk, but her hunting and thieving abilities are unmatched. Much like Rex, she's a bit quick tempered, but she has a sharp wit and a sarcasm I enjoy. Past her tough exterior, she's got a big heart and is very loyal. It also doesn't hurt that she can shoot an arrow through an apple at 200 yards. ■



RUINWORLD #1
AVAILABLE AT YOUR LOCAL COMIC SHOP **JULY 11!**



Cover by
Phil Hester
with **John Rauch**

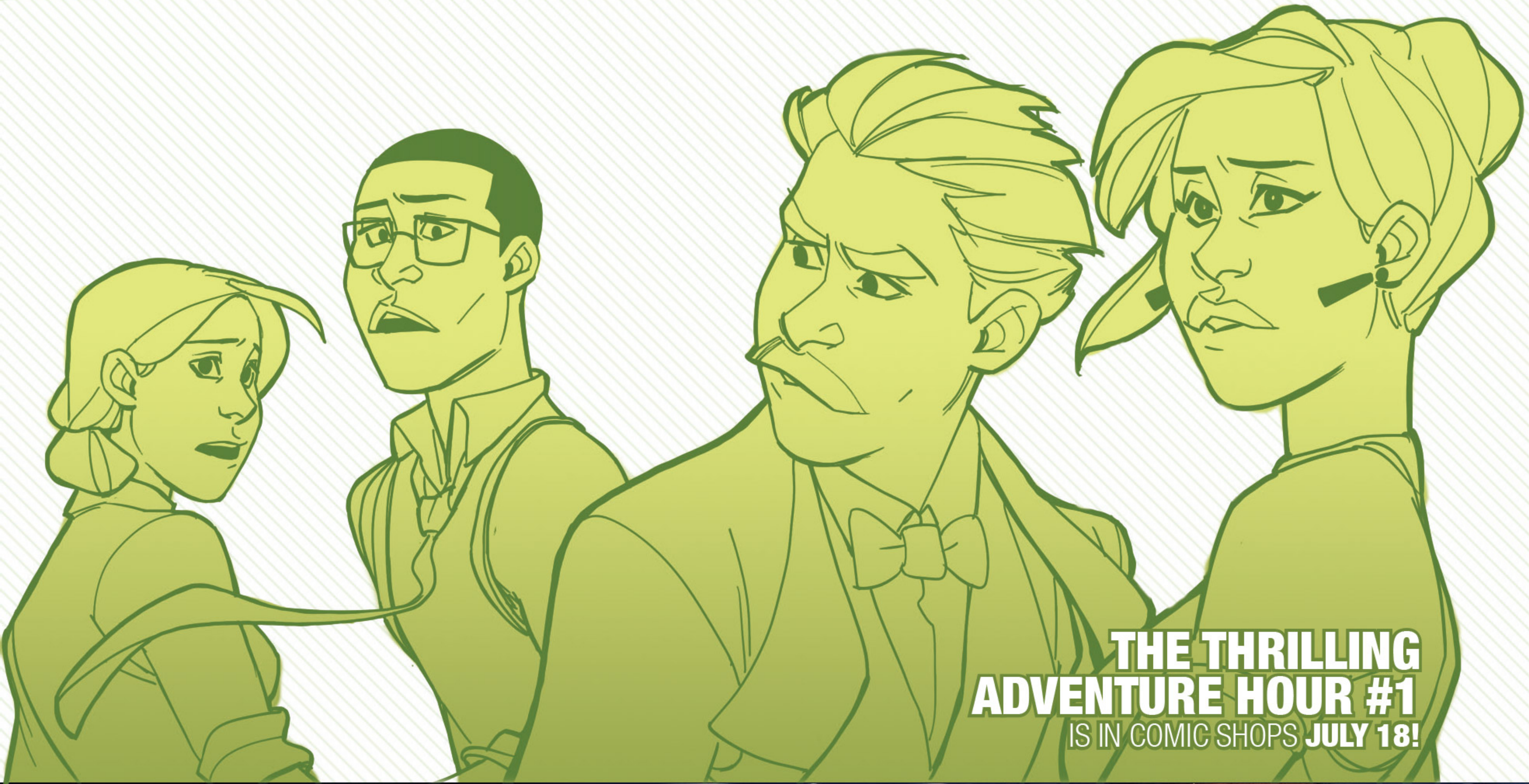
ALSO IN STORES THIS MONTH,
THE THRILLING ADVENTURE HOUR: A SPIRITED ROMANCE DISCOVER NOW EDITION!

A TOAST WITH GHOSTS!

THE THRILLING ADVENTURE HOUR #1

An all-new series from creators Ben Acker and Ben Blacker, along with rising star artist M.J. Erickson, based on the wildly popular Hollywood stage show and podcast!

Frank and Sadie Doyle are the toast of the upper crust, headliners on the society pages. . . and they see ghosts. When one night of having a drink (or ten) with friends goes horribly—and perhaps predictably—wrong at a haunted house, the Doyles find themselves in a situation beyond belief.



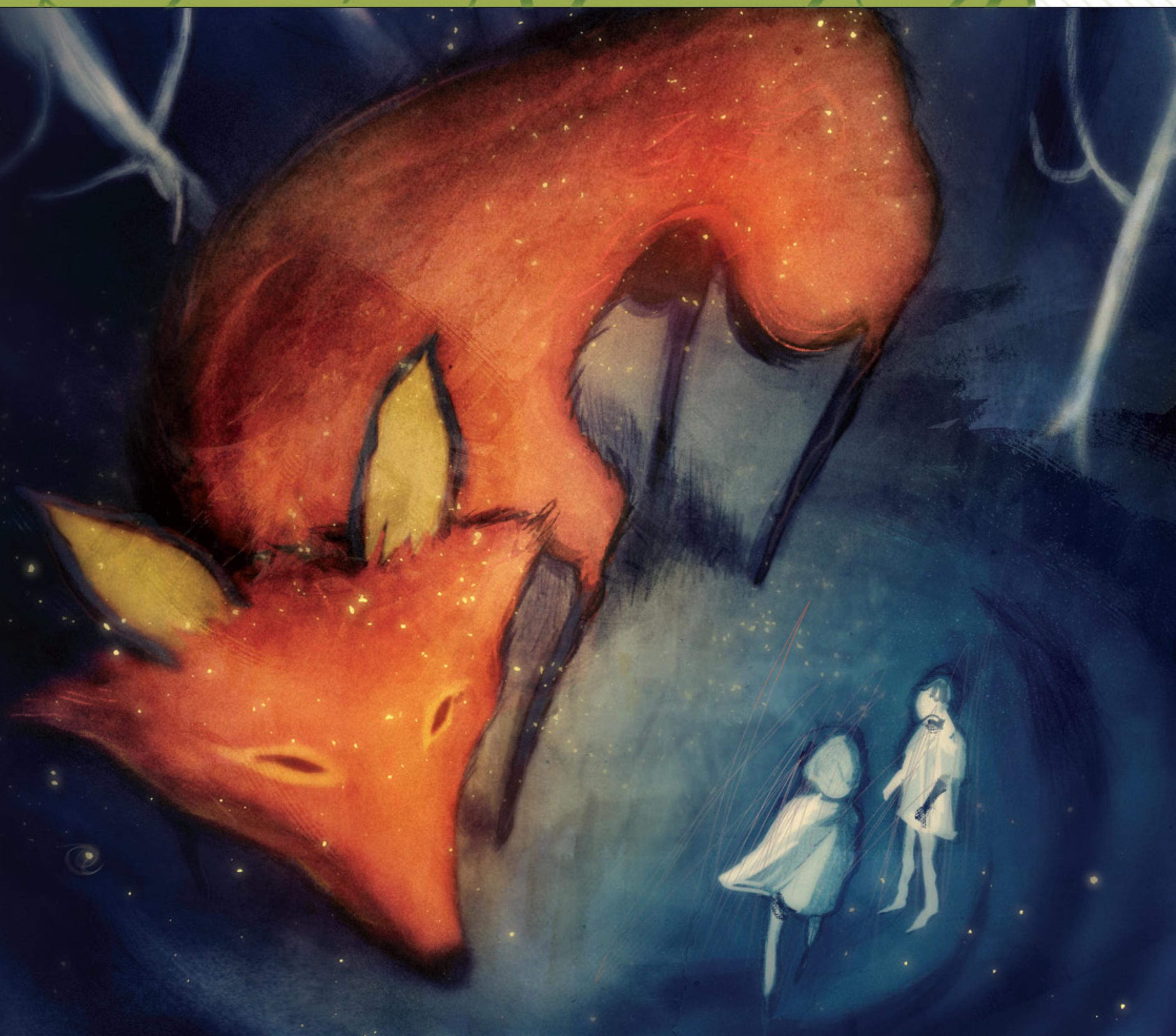
THE THRILLING ADVENTURE HOUR #1
IS IN COMIC SHOPS **JULY 18!**

HUMANITY TRANSFORMED

RUN WILD

The *Run Wild* graphic novel reunites storytellers K.I. Zachopoulos and Vincenzo Balzano, the visionary creators of *The Cloud*. When all of civilization begins turning into animals, only two people remain—young siblings Ava and Flynn. On a desperate search for their parents and safety, they'll traverse a wild and unruly landscape, make friends and foes of all species, and discover what really makes them human.

RUN WILD
IS IN COMIC SHOPS **JULY 11!**



A NEW SEQUEL TO THE HIT FILM

JIM HENSON'S BENEATH THE DARK CRYSTAL

With the Crystal healed and the Skeksis banished, Kensho and Thurma return to their separate worlds to enjoy the peace they fought so hard to ensure. At the Crystal Castle, Kensho is asked to accept the responsibility as leader of Thra. Meanwhile, the realm of Mithra is being rebuilt by the newly-crowned Ember Queen Thurma, whose own quest to decide the future of her land is thrown into question when another Fireling makes a claim as the true heir to the throne.

Cover by
Benjamin Dewey

JIM HENSON'S BENEATH THE DARK CRYSTAL #1
IS IN COMIC SHOPS **JULY 4!**

ICYMI: BY NIGHT #2

NEW PALS, NEW DIMENSIONS

After meeting a friendly new face in the alternate dimension they've stumbled upon, Heather (eagerly) and Jane (reluctantly) agree to venture further in. With their trusty camcorder to record what they find and an inhuman new buddy, there's no turning back now!

From Eisner Award-nominated creator John Allison (*Giant Days*) and artist Christine Larsen (*Adventure Time*).

BY NIGHT #2
IS IN COMIC SHOPS **JULY 18!**

GET TO KNOW **BOOM! STUDIOS**

SOPHIE PHILIPS-ROBERTS

ASSISTANT EDITOR

Currently Reading: *The Merry Spinster: Tales of Everyday Horror, All Out: The No Longer Secret Stories of Queer Teens Throughout the Ages*

Favorite Item on Desk: My tiny Mulder and Scully

Movie I Can Quote By Heart: *Ghostbusters*

Favorite travel destination: Egypt

If I won the lottery I'd spend the money on: Is it sad to say student loans? I'd visit my friends in Australia and Spain!

Secret talent: I recently discovered that I can knit and read subtitles at the same time.

Hometown: Glen Ridge, New Jersey

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